



seasons of
CHANGE



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INDIANHEAD 2024

seasons of

CHANGE

VOL. 79



The University of North Carolina
at Pembroke
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Pembroke, NC 28372-1510
www.uncp.edu



table of CONTENTS

SPRING.... 10

Spring Sports.....	22
May Graduation.....	38

SUMMER.... 44

Summer Bridge.....	48
New Student Orientation.....	52

FALL.... 62

Fall Sports.....	94
December Graduation.....	116

WINTER.... 120

Winter Sports.....	144
Closing.....	164



With a change in staff for this year's book, the team decided we wanted students to be more involved in a production that was benefiting them directly. We polled students at campus events in August to narrow down this year's theme from among 20 choices we brainstormed. The top four were put out for a social media survey, and "Seasons of Change" was the winner.

It's fitting; one of the few things that people are guaranteed in life is change. Change is inevitable, and with it comes the good and the bad, smiles and tears, and in time, growth. The college experience is all about change and growth. The winning theme also inspired a new direction for putting the book's content together. Typically a yearbook is organized into five main sections: student life, organizations, academics, athletics and people (i.e., portraits). As you enjoy the current volume, you'll see we have organized the book by seasons, which reflects how the yearbook staff captured things as they were happening. We also abandoned portraits (headshots), which most students had lost interest in.

The book begins with coverage of events that occurred after the 2023 book was sent off to the printer, including May graduation and how spring sports finished their seasons. And although most of you cleared out of Pembroke for the summer, we followed you to internships and summer jobs. We also kept an eye on campus, where new students attended orientation and where local traditions such as Lumbee Homecoming continued.

In Pembroke, the Wing Co. Bar & Grill moved to the center of town in a newly built retail and living complex called the A.S. Thomas Center, home of "The Lofts" and a UNCP Spirit Shop. Rooftop dining is their new feature for Pembroke. A Just Love Coffee franchise opened in the same complex and is owned by No. 1 Braves fan Mickey Locklear. Dunkin' Donuts and Slim Chickens built franchises across from campus, offering not just new food options but more jobs for students.

In June the U.S. Supreme Court effectively ended race-conscious affirmative action in college admissions wherever it still remained, although UNCP has never had a problem courting diversity and still has one of the most diverse student populations in the South.

That student population tends to be close-knit, so we were shocked and saddened to lose a peer to gun violence in February. Nineteen-year-old Khalil Alford was killed in gunfire that started at Courtyard Apartments. He was eulogized at a candlelight memorial Feb. 13, a cold evening where one couldn't help but feel the warmth of family and friends who shed tears and shared memories of a young man taken too soon. Three weeks later, as students started their spring break, sophomore Cameron Taylor of Alpha Sigma Phi was killed and two other students injured in a Friday night shooting at The Commons apartment complex. As this book goes to press, SGA is planning another memorial so campus mourners may remember his life and resent his premature loss.

With as much sorrow that change can bring to life, there comes much joy, and we hope that UNCP students will think back fondly on the year we've documented, despite witnessing those traumatizing events. Someone once observed, "Life is full of transitions and changes; embracing each season with open arms is essential to personal growth." I hope you will agree.

---Mykayla Brady, Editor-in-Chief

The Aurochs Literary Magazine

Left to right:
Josh Peters, Carlee Unger,
Clayton Luce, William
Friend, Dr. Berntsen
(Adviser), Kristen Trull,
Faith Sanders, Rylan Schall

Not pictured:
Alexander Bailey
Logan Hoffman
Mykayla Brady

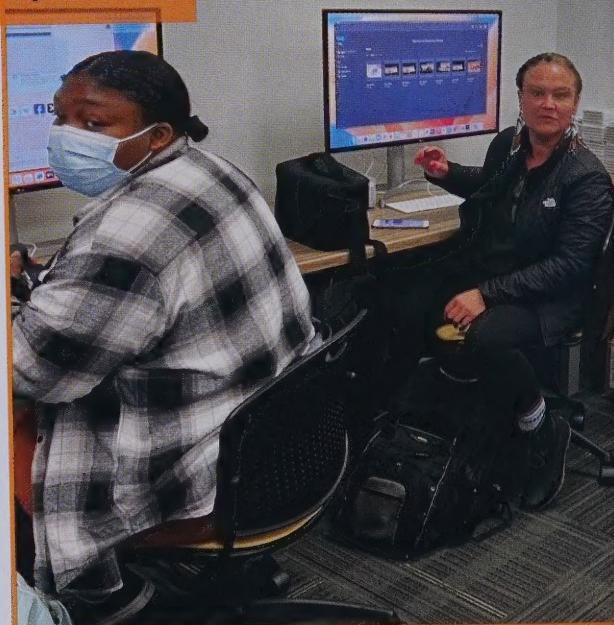


Above: Camille McDougald distributes yearbooks at Grad Finale in October.
Left: Kia Wynne looks at her notes for a Pine Needle story, but she also wrote for the yearbook in the fall.

The Pine Needle Newspaper



Left to right: Aaliyah Pamplin, Michelle Chavis, Nick Kolsin, Angelique Seymour, Vonn Thompson, Dr. Natale (Adviser), Jalayna Pough, Kia Wynne, Alexia Hunt



Indianhead Yearbook



Fall staff, left to right: Nicole Cook, Tatum Jordan, Benjamin Rodgers, Mykayla Brady, Andrew Thrift, Dr. Litty (Adviser), Diamond Melendez, James Taylor, Amber Mann, Miranda Shook, Issac Nixon, Alissa Jones, Alycia Artman. Not pictured: Angelique Seymour, Toure Moore, Kia Wynne



Spring additions, top to bottom: Zach Ciboth, Evan Phillips, Jo Hayes, Shirsendu Mondal, Hannah Scrattish (also fall).



Student publications are supported by students fees and a little bit of advertising revenue. The student staff work diligently in paid and unpaid positions for academic credit in their respective curricula: English or Mass Communication. The 22nd edition of The Aurochs was released in January, and the class held a public reading. The call for submissions for the next volume went out in November and staff entered the early design phase for it. The Pine Needle focused on the website but also brought out special paper editions each semester, including coverage of two student homicides and the school's response to those.

The yearbook staff tabled monthly to make sure every eligible student who wanted their 2023 book got one. They polled the student body each semester for some of the content in this volume. Check it out! The Pine Needle and the Indianhead won "Best of Show" recognitions in their respective categories from the NC College Media Association in February. Congratulations to all involved!



Left to right: Entertainment Editor Victor Mays (fall), Sports Editor Zach Ciboth, Editor-in-Chief Raven Hanning, Photo Editor and Social Media Manager Andrew Thrift (fall)

UNC P

Attended a Powwow

Hung out at Cookout in the A.M.s

Went to a party at "the barn"

Changed majors more than once

Visited the museum in Old Main

No roommate for a whole semester

Tried grape ice cream

Played manhunt on campus

Took one or more P.E. credits online

Parked a whole year without a hangtag

Became best friends with your roommate(s)

Went to more than three parties in one night

Sat in a class you weren't enrolled in

Spontaneous trip to Waffle House

Caused the fire alarm to go off

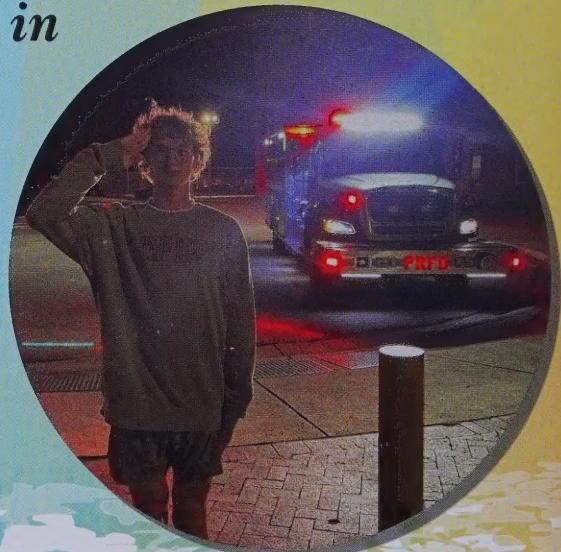
Been on academic probation

Tried a collard sandwich

Attended a step show



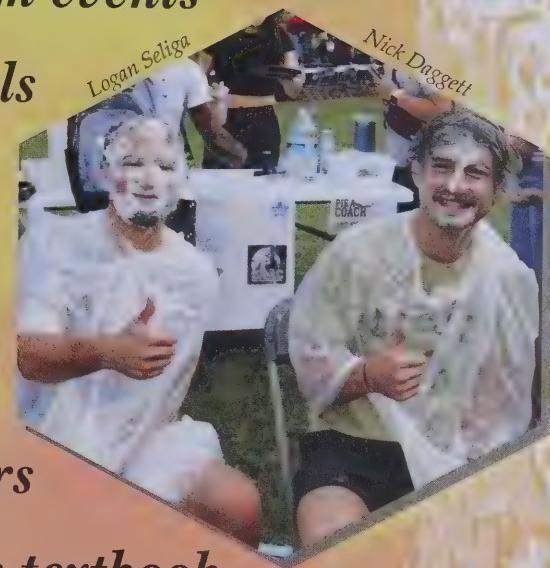
Clockwise from bottom left: Christie Poteet, Evan Long, Dalton Hoffer and Rocky Locklear enjoy grape ice cream at Lumbee Homecoming.



Freshman Evan Phillips is tired of residents setting off the fire alarm.

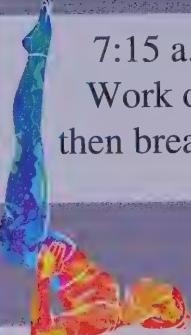
BUCKET LIST

- Pledged a fraternity or sorority
- Came back to find your laundry moved
- Caught a T-shirt from the Spirit Squad
- Survived a week on free food from events
- Pulled an all-nighter during finals
- Saw a Broadway show at GPAC
- Held down two jobs at a time
- Never checked out a library book
- Graduating in less than four years
- Passed a class without buying the textbook
- Took a pie in the face for a good cause
- Tailgated at a football game
- Visited the Campus Garden
- Tried the sushi at the Cafe
- Got a part in a school play
- Roomed with your R.A.
- Lost your Braves Card
- Took an F45 class



The student section is a target for the Spirit Squad trying to give out those free McDonald's T-shirts at home football games.

DAY



7:15 a.m.
Work out!
then breakfast

11:00 a.m. - 12:30
Nap time!



Aniah Lobban - FRESHMAN

TYPICAL MONDAY

6:00 - 6:30 a.m.

Wake up!



9:05 a.m. Biology

10:10 Philosophy



1:00 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Homework, library,
dinner & relax



IN



Brooke Addis - SOPHOMORE

TYPICAL MONDAY

6:00 - 7:00 a.m.

Wake up and eat!



10:10 a.m. Piano
11:15 a.m. Chorale
12:20 p.m. Pedagogy



Piano practice and
homework until
dinner



10:30 p.m.
Lights out!

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Down time, please!

TYPICAL MONDAY

7:30 - 7:45 a.m.

Wake up!

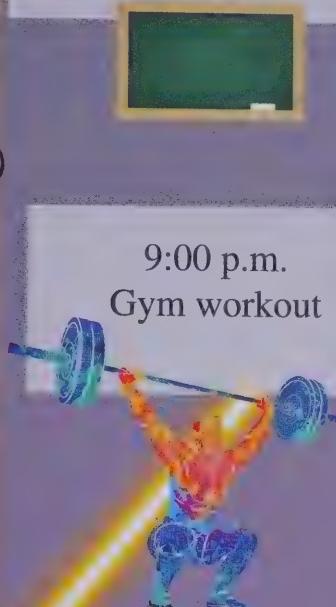
2:30 p.m. Lunch!
then down time



12:00 a.m.
Bedtime!

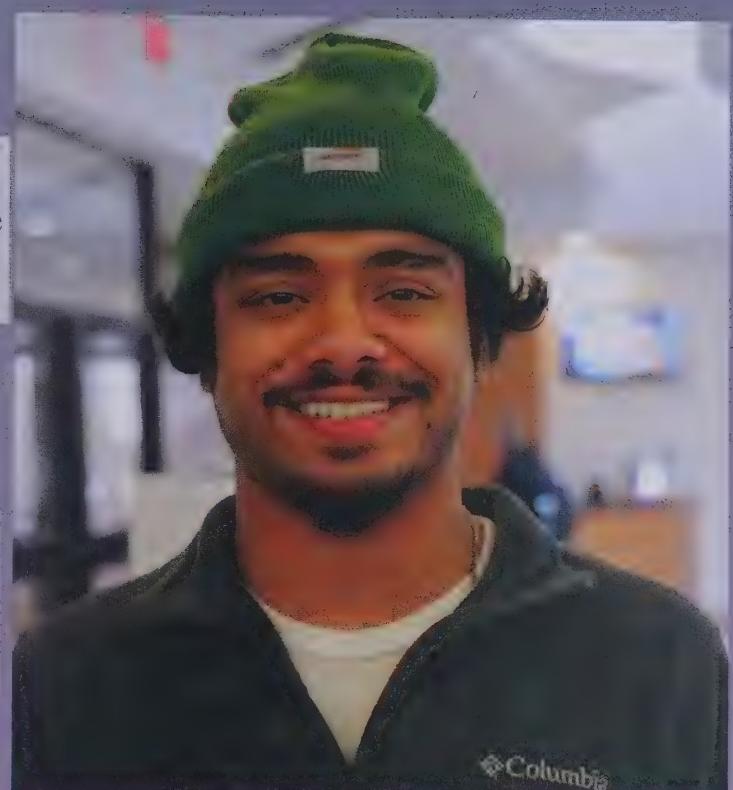
Joshua Kessinger - JUNIOR

9:05 a.m. Psychology
11:15 Criminal Procedure
1:25 Police in Society



9:00 p.m.
Gym workout

THE



LIFE

TYPICAL MONDAY

9:00 a.m.
Wake up!

3:00 p.m.
Wrestling practice

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Homework!



Joshua Feliz - SENIOR

10:10 a.m. Piano
11:15 a.m. Logic

4:00 p.m. Psychology
then dinner!



11:00 p.m.
Lights out!



Azaleas bloom on campus and around the region from roughly mid-March until mid-April. They inspire the annual North Carolina Azalea Festival in Wilmington. Photo credit: Jamie Litty



"In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather in 24 hours," Mark Twain said. It's true: in North Carolina we can feel like it's all four seasons in a single day.

But that doesn't stop the flowers from blooming right on schedule. Campus starts buzzing again in the spring--and it's not just the bees out at the apiary. While nature is making its transition, our students are getting ramped up for Spring Break, the national craze known as March Madness, religious holidays such as Easter, and May commencement ceremonies!

Spring 2023 saw a ban on most Friday classes, so students used the three-day weekends to catch up on homework, enjoy time with friends, get in more hours at their part-time jobs, or stay home to save gas, which averaged about \$3.24 per gallon by Valentine's Day. In March grad student Shawn Ham competed on "Wheel of Fortune," and UNCP earned second place in the Collegiate Hunger Challenge. In April three students won awards at the Southern Regional Model United Nations conference in Charlotte, and Givens Performing Arts Center played host to the touring version of the Broadway musical "Chicago." In the news, seasonal tornadoes were catastrophic in parts of the South including Mississippi, but two tornadoes also hit Southern California in a two-day span in March. Fox News settled the defamation lawsuit brought by Dominion Voting Systems and agreed to pay them \$787.5 million in damages. Rihanna performed at Superbowl LVII after not performing for more than five years, and Taylor Swift started her 21-month Eras Tour among ticket sales controversies.

March POWWOW

The fifth annual BraveNation Powwow and Gathering on Saturday, March 18, was one for the books! Held in the main gym at the Jones Center, the event brought the local community and university together to show the vibrant heritage of America's indigenous peoples. It's both a fun-filled and serious occasion. People from all over come to participate in dancing, singing and drumming. The dance competitions are open to all ages

and showcase different types with distinct forms. Artisans get the chance to sell their wares and connect with the community. Organizers said the March powwow had more than 2,200 folks in attendance, 140 dancers and seven drum groups. It has been named the largest in the state and is the result of a great group effort to coordinate all aspects.



Competitions vary by age, gender and dance type. Some children learn early and pursue it eagerly.



This dancer's regalia includes the fancy shawl.



It's a competition, but cooperation is also part of the spirit, as these children demonstrate.



Krystin Woodell (left) and Jamee Freeman work in Admissions but bring the whole family out to the spring powwow.



Jayden Worriax likes to help at the powwow as a member of Alpha Pi Omega.



April Whittemore Locklear of the Accessibility Resource Center sells her artisanal soap at craft-friendly events like this one.



Ahelaius Oxouzidis volunteered for front-of-the-house duties to collect entrance fees and provide wristbands as a member of Phi Sigma Nu.



Trista Dial keeps her feet low to the ground for the jingle dress dance.



Aiyana Lynch is a member of the UNCP spirit squad and disciplined in keeping rhythm.

history of Powwows

Public dances known today as powwows have been around since the late 19th century, despite government efforts to prohibit these cultural expressions. Some sources attribute modern powwows to the merger of two intertribal traditions: the Drum Religion and the Grass Dance Society. On campus the Native American Student Organization held an annual fall powwow throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.



The jingle dress (center) typically features cone-shaped tin or other metal to make the distinctive sound that's connected to healing.

UNTOUCHABLE talent

"One thing for certain was that PAC's 30th annual talent show was one to remember..."



Makayla Watson

Every spring, the Pembroke Activities Council gives students an opportunity to showcase their gifts and skills in a talent show in Givens Performing Arts Center. They kicked off their 2023 show March 16 with a range of contests that engaged the audience with amazing singing abilities, dancing, and other musical skills or spoken word. The audience was in high spirits and stayed that way as the performances got better and better. PAC also hired the husband-wife duo of Nathan Kepner and Morgan Tsu-Raun, better known as Crescent Circus, to host the show and perform a variety of illusions, tricks and stunts.

A panel of judges was drawn from university personnel and sat in the back of the auditorium, where they could score each individual or group performance. There were many moments of laughter, many gasps of shock and many tears shed, but one thing for certain was that PAC's 30th annual talent show was one to remember. The \$500 prize for first place went to **Tatiana Sims** for her spoken word performance (shown below); \$300 prize for second place went to rapper **Grace White**; and the seven-member group known as the **Divine Dancers** nabbed the \$200 prize for third place.



The Divine Dancers make the crowd go wild with their electrifying dance moves.



Samuel Bowen surprises his friends with his hidden guitar skills, playing "Leave the Door Open" by Bruno Mars.



William Duff pours his heart out like the next Sam Smith.



Nathan Kepner stumps a volunteer from the audience with a card trick involving a cereal box.

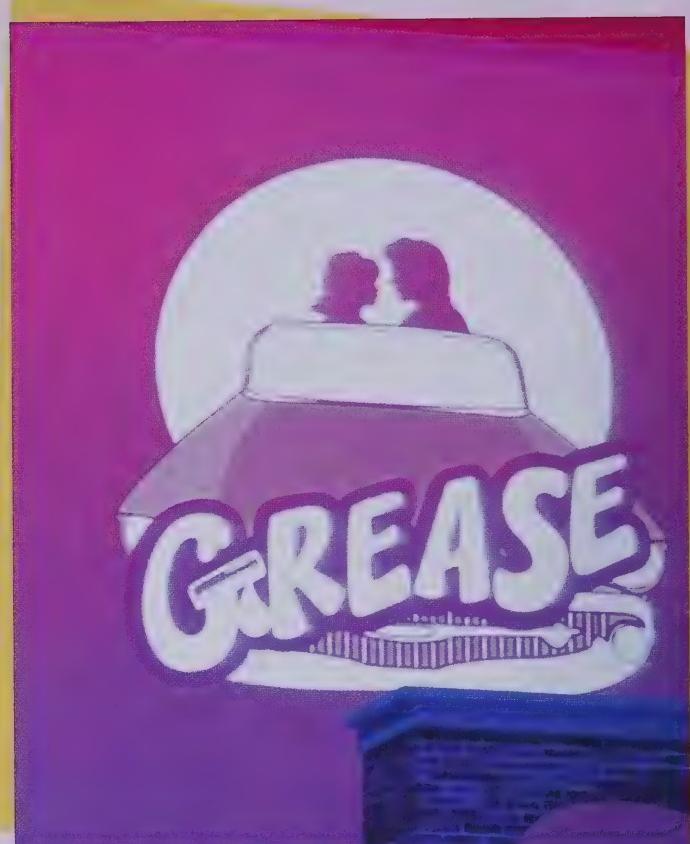


Brittany Locklear is dressed for the occasion and lights up the stage with her singing voice

The panel of judges remains impartial while enjoying the performances.



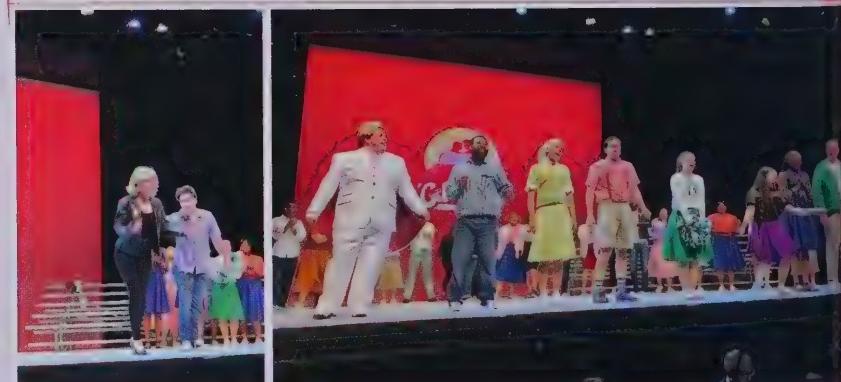
The winners show off their earnings as all the student contestants line up for a group photo at the end.



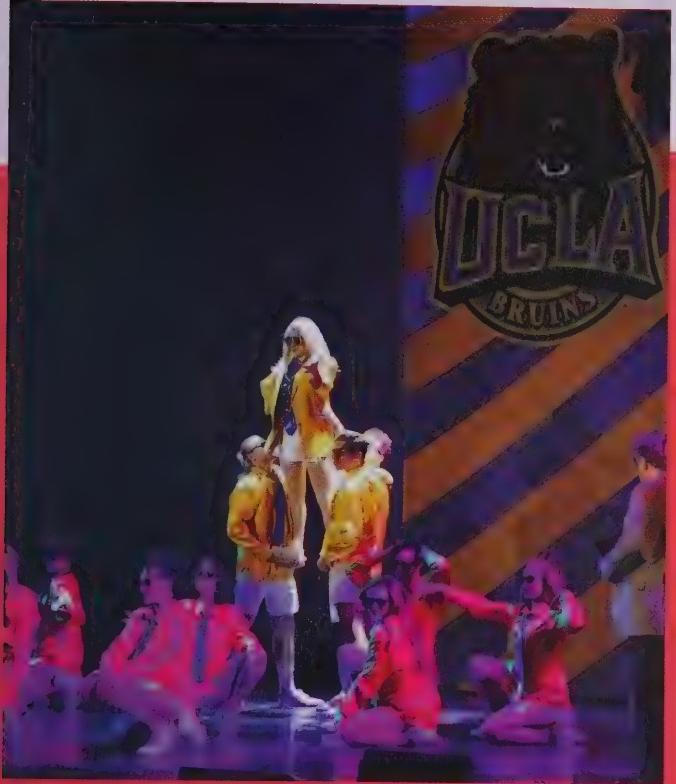
Meet the Cast of Grease:

(Pictured above in the top two photos)

Maelisa Quin - Sandy
Jesse Graham - Danny
Sterling Pratt - Kenicke
Christian Coto - Sonny
Nic Rumbeau - Roger (Putzie)
Joseph Holder - Doody
Cameron Holder - Rizzo
Chelsea Williams - Marty
Mya Bryant - Jan
Cheyenne Ward - Frenchy
Raekwon Wilkes - Vince Fontaine
Mahala Treish - Cha Cha
Madison Cain - Patty Simcox
Sean Deam - Eugene
Tyler Grainger - Teen Angel
Britney Chambers - Mrs. Lynch
David Young - Coach



It's Musical Season



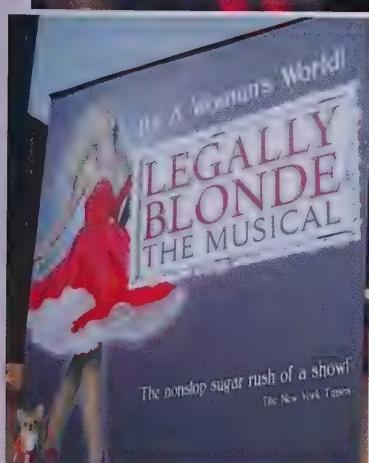
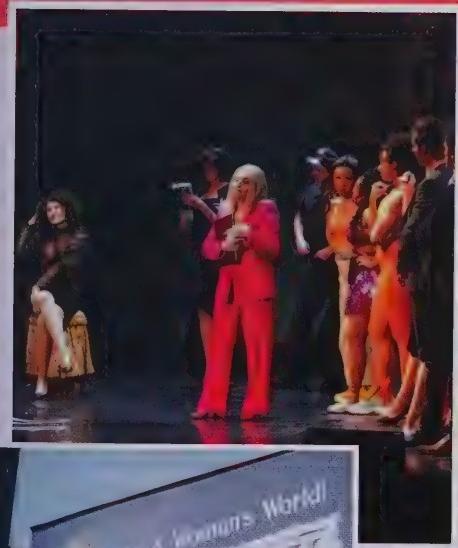
'There Right There' at the Givens Performing Arts Center

Throughout the school year, GPAC is host to a wide range of performing arts, and in the spring they hosted several very different musicals. University Theatre staged their own production of 'Grease' for a two-day run, April 21-22. The show is a satirical love story between two 1950s-era high school students, Sandy Dombrowski and Danny Zuko. They fell in love over summer vacation and thought they would never see each other again, until Sandy winds up as a transfer student at Rydell High, the same school Danny attends. The two groups who rule the school are the Pink Ladies, where Sandy is not a great fit, and the T-Birds, Danny's pals.

The Broadway touring version of 'Legally Blonde' graced the stage on March 23 and is based on the movie about fashion-conscious sorority girl Elle Woods, who takes her future into her own hands and shows that it's not that hard to succeed at Harvard. She impresses

everyone at her internship while defending a client and gets the chance to reject her ex-boyfriend, all while looking good in pink.

The national tour of 'Chicago' also stopped in Pembroke, on April 27.



PURC SYMPOSIUM

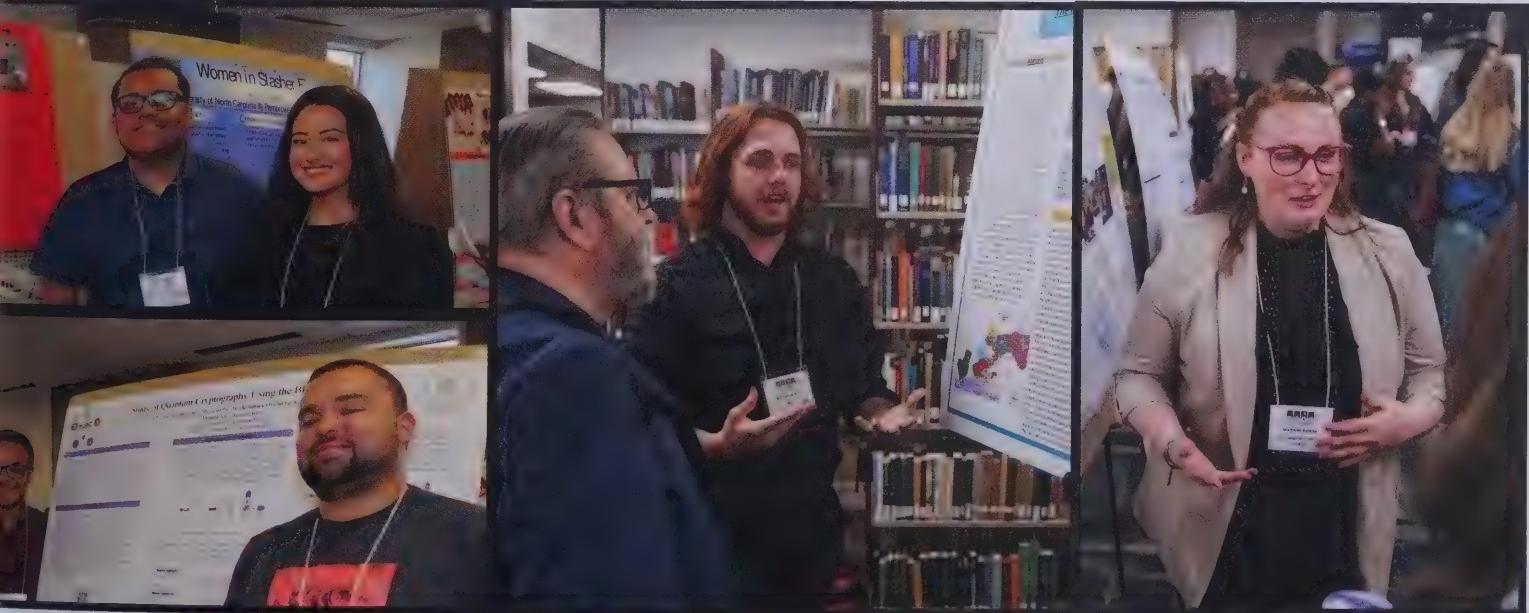
Pembroke
Undergraduate
Research &
Creativity

April 12, 2023

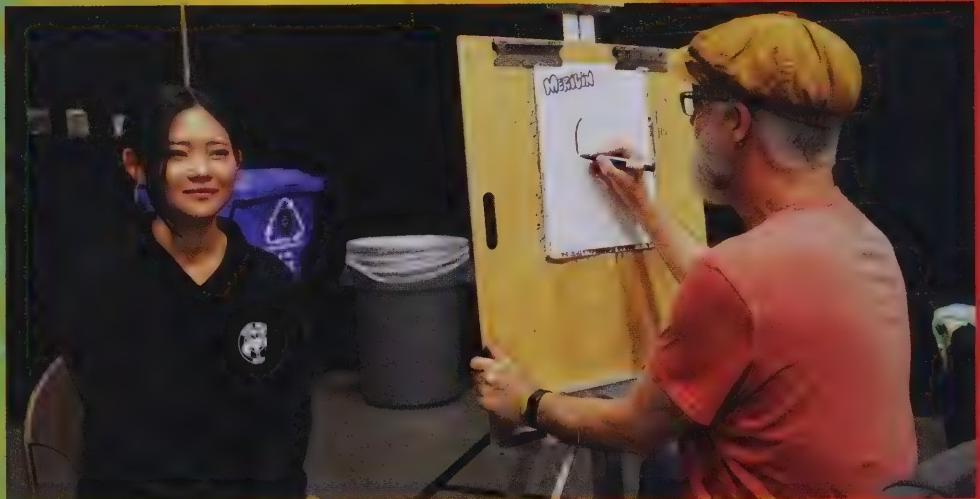




The 17th Annual Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium was a celebration of student-led projects in many fields of study, including the arts. Students have the opportunity to show off their research conclusions from experiments, surveys, historiography, and other methods. Dr. Bob Poage (left) of the Department of Biology, introduced the keynote speaker, former UNCP faculty member Dr. Lee Phillips, Director of Undergraduate Research at UNCG, shown (far left) listening to De'Maurion Shelley describe his findings about the Hickory Log district of the Cherokee Nation, circa. 1828. Biology major Catarina Mauldin (far left, bottom) shared her research on the natural predators of the eastern box turtle. Dina Abumohsen worked with another biology major, Lindsay Branch, on lessons for solving complex chemical equations on TI-83 and TI-84 calculators. The student organization Acto Latino researched three plays they performed last year. Edward Jeffries, Billy Pait, Caleb Locklear and Kendrick Oxendine, all of them majoring in applied physics, shared research into quantum cryptography. Art history major Brennan Jenkins analyzed ritual objects of Benin's royal women of the 1700s. Madison Bathke (below right) has survey results on race-related beliefs of aspiring police officers.



Festival at Old Main



The community comes together for games, free food, crafts and other attractions during the annual Festival at Old Main. No matter the weather, we're in this together!

"The Festival at Old Main" was a festival at the auxiliary gym on April 1, and not as an April Fools' Day prank. Heavy rain and strong winds led to the relocation. This event tradition began as "Family Day" for nontraditional students and continues to feature youth-oriented activities and free food. A giant Jenga game, bouncy house, face painting, crafts and games were all part of the attraction, not to mention unlimited funnel cake! More than 600 people attended as guests, students or organizations.

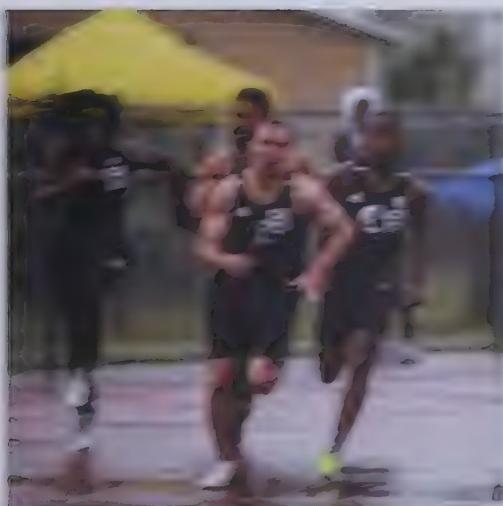
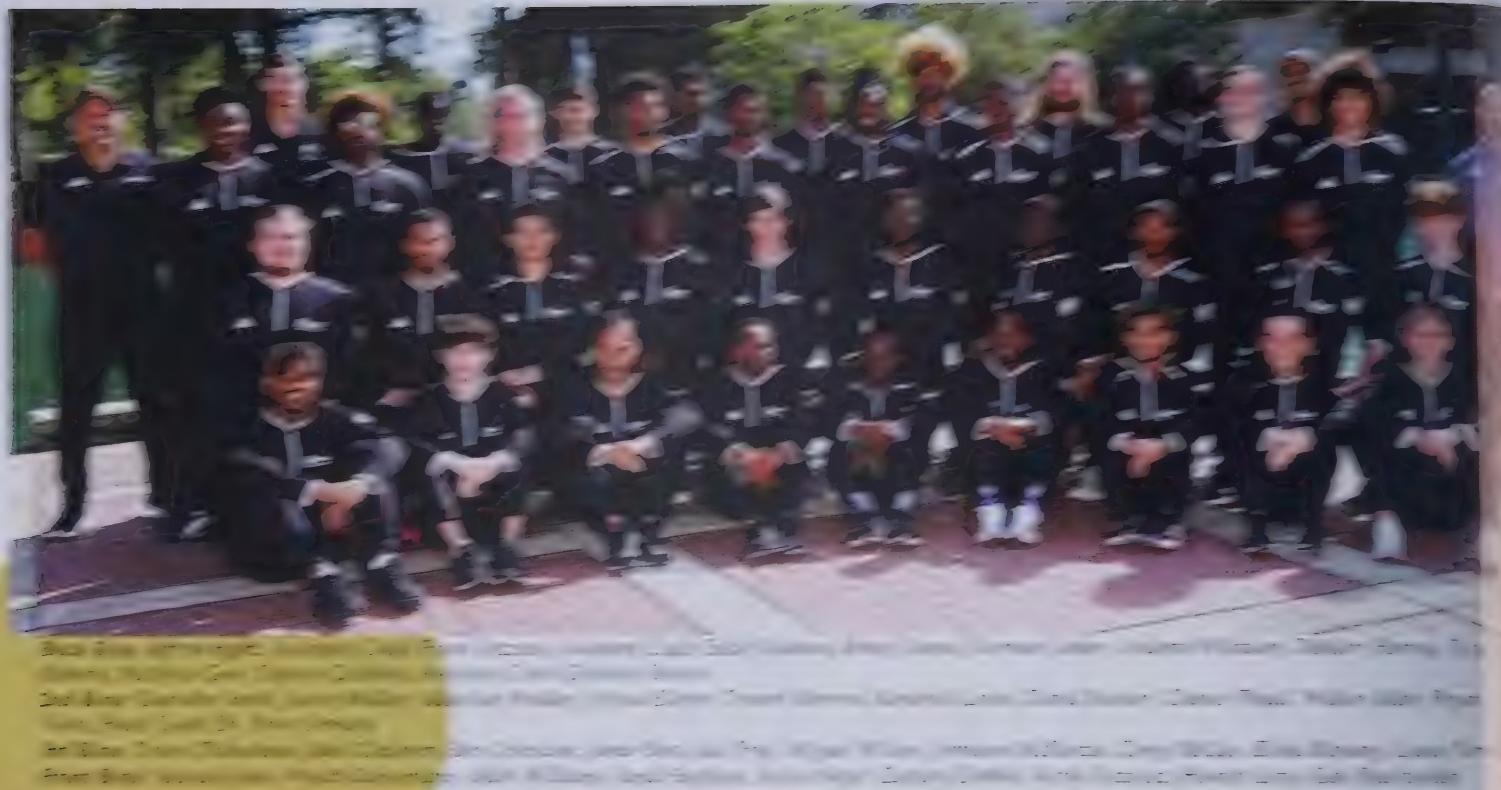


SPRING SPORTS

The spring season was memorable for the Braves in multiple sports. We watched the baseball team tear through the region, lighting up scoreboards along the way with their explosive hitting. The Diamond Braves compiled a record of 39-17 and a conference record of 19-10. The Braves took down the likes of Belmont Abbey and Mount Olive at times when both of those squads were nationally ranked. They also claimed a top-25 win over Wingate. The Braves fell short in the semifinals of the Conference Carolinas championship tournament but clinched a NCAA Division II Southeast regional playoff berth before falling to the Newberry Wolves in the semifinals. It was a season of change for the softball team under first-year head coach Stephanie Graziani. The team came away with a 20-31 overall record and a conference record of 11-11. Not great, but highlights included matchups where they took some of the top conference teams to the limit. Their season ended in a conference tournament elimination game against King. Golf head coach Hannah Luckett and her team had a long and remarkable season that started in the fall of 2022 and transitioned into spring. The Braves compiled 12 top-10 finishes in multiple open challenges and invitationals that paid off in the end as they claimed the Conference Carolinas crown with their first-place finish and back-to-back conference titles. They put a close to their season with an 8th-place finish as a team in the first round of the NCAA Division II South Super Regional and then finished the event with a 12th-place finish in the final round. The men's track and field team broke multiple records as they finished runner-up in the indoor Conference Carolinas championship at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem. They followed that up with second place in the outdoor conference championship held at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium in Myrtle Beach. The women's track and field team had a noteworthy season as well, breaking records en route to their second-place team finish at the Conference Carolinas indoor championship. They finished their outdoor season as a team with a top-10 finish at the conference championship, April 28-29.

2023





Outdoor Scoreboard

Event	Team	Score
4x100m Relay	Red Team	1:45.2
4x200m Relay	Blue Team	1:32.5
Shot Put	Green Team	15.8
Javelin Throw	Yellow Team	45.7
High Jump	Red Team	1.80m
Long Jump	Blue Team	7.20m
Discus Throw	Green Team	42.5
4x400m Relay	Yellow Team	3:45.1
Hammer Throw	Red Team	45.0
100m Dash	Blue Team	10.2
3000m Run	Green Team	9:15.0

A small photograph of a male athlete in a white singlet and dark shorts standing next to the scoreboard, smiling.

Men's Track & Field



The Braves started the 2023 Outdoor Track & Field season on a positive note, kicking things off March 3 at the UNCW Seahawk Invitational, where they recorded 10 individual bests. Ben Kendine finished fourth in the javelin throw with a personal best of 47.79 meters and placed 15th in the hammer throw with a toss of 27.30 meters. Sebastian Bradley placed sixth in the hammer throw with 41.40 meters, and Matthew Geer placed seventh with a throw of 38.61 to round out the day.

At the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational in Myrtle Beach, Joshua Chepkesir had a first-place finish with a school record-breaking time of 8:33.57 in the 3,000-meter run. Delsin Burkhart took the win in the mile with a personal best of 4:21.03. By the end of March, at the Colonial Relays in Williamsburg, Chepkesir and Burkhart each logged CAA provisional qualifying times. Burkhart aimed a time of 3:52.40 in the 1,500-meter race, and Chepkesir finished 5,000 meters with a time of 14:16.59.

The 4x100m relay squad of Javion Seger, LaMarr Harvey, Caleb Baldwin and Travon Morrow combined to post a NCAA provisional time of 40.64 at the VertKlasse Meeting on March 1. They came oh-so-close to that time when they ran 40.68 for a seventh-place finish at the USC Open on April 22. At the Conference Carolinas Championships, the team placed 2nd overall, powered on by first-place finishes in the 4x100m relay, 110m hurdles (Tayvon Callahan), 5,000m (Chepkesir), and the 4x400m relay. Four Braves were named to the USTFCCA All-Region Team: Cedric Douglas (discus), Callahan (110m hurdles), Burkhart (800m) and Chepkesir (10,000m).

###

From small-town Reidsville, fifth-year senior Sebastian Bradley is getting ready to graduate cum laude with a bachelor's degree in computer science, a major he has been studying since he started at UNCP, but he has doubts about working in the field.

"I can do any job with computers if I have to, but I'd rather not," he said. "I'm just a lot more passionate about weights and helping people fix their injuries than I am computers."

Sabastian originally chose the computer science major as a freshman because he was interested in the engineering side of game design, something he learned about himself while playing video games. Through his athletic participation at UNCP, he found that he loved physical therapy, although it was too late for him to change his major and still graduate on time.

A freshman's second largest decision after choosing a major is picking one's friends. Sebastian, like many other students, didn't get it right the first time. Falling in with the wrong crowd is a common misstep, and the trick is to learn to leave them behind.

"The people that are bad for you are only going to add stress to your life, and it's already stressful enough. You need good people that can support you," he warned. Sebastian's advice for freshmen is to choose their majors wisely and find great friends for a strong support system.

Change is our yearbook theme this year, and Sebastian said, "If UNCP changed me at all over the last five years, it's just made me more of a leader, especially as a student-athlete. We get held to a higher standard; we have to have good grades to play." --Profiled by Raven Hanning



Photo credit:
Ally Artman

Women's Track & Field

The Braves kicked off their 2023 outdoor season when they competed March 16-18 at the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational in Myrtle Beach. Alycia Artman and Sara Ormsby each set personal-best records on the first day with 25.04m and 14.07m, respectively, in the javelin throw. The next day, Jackline Kosgei finished in the top ten in the 5,000-meter run, with a time of 19:24.97, and Karen Piro had a personal best time in the same event, running 21:44.01. Raven Haston had a personal best time of 12.23 in the 100-meter dash, and Artman picked up a personal best in the hammer throw with a distance of 37.12m. The Braves had two runners place in the top 20 at the Colonial Relays in Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 31. Kosgei placed seventh and Kathryn Anderson placed 11th in the 5,000-meter run.



Aly Artman throws a personal-best 38.21m in the hammer throw at the Braves Classic on April 8.



Aly Hudspeth takes fifth place out of 14 in the high jump at the USC Open with a height of 1.55m.

Outdoor Scoreboard

Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational	NTS
Raleigh Relays	NTS
5th Annual Adidas Trojan Challenge	NTS
Colonial Relays	NTS
Bill Carson Invite	NTS
Braves Classic	1 of 10
Trojan Relays	NTS
USC Open	NTS
Conference Championships	5 of 11

At the VertKlasse Meeting in High Point the Braves had a top-10 finish in the high jump when Aly Hudspeth finished with a mark of 1.54m on opening day. The team picked up a wide range of individual event titles during the 2023 Braves Classic at home. Nyree Bacchus claimed the top spot in the 400-meter dash, Julia Van Dine the 800-meter run, Lillian Marino the hammer throw, and Artman the shotput. Micaiah Darity took first in long jump, and Britney Chambers took first in the 200-meter dash. At the Trojan Relays hosted by University of Mount Olive, Valary Samoei, Jaela Thomas and Marino each took home top-ten finishes in their respective events. The Braves were back at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium in Myrtle Beach April 28-29 to conclude their season with a fifth-place finish at the Conference Carolinas Championships. Raigan Evans was named to the USTFCCA All-Southeast Region Team for both discus and hammer throw.



Kirsten Shuford runs the 200-meter dash at the USC Open on April 22, 2023.



Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach Frank Fazzino, Assistant Coach Eddie Mahana, Jaqueeta Moise, ShaDawnya Teh, Julia Van Dine, Britney Chambers, Lillian Marino, Kirsten Shuford, Assistant Coach Deshonn Brown, Head Coach Dr. Peter Ormsby
Middle: Kathryn Anderson, Alycia Artman, Reece Hicks, Ratavia Merritt, Micaiah Darity, Valary Samoei, Leisha Jackson
Bottom: Sara Ormsby, Mahala Evans, Jazmine Lorenzo, Jaela Thomas, Brianna Sanders, Jackline Kosgei, Karen Piro



L to R: Lillian Marino, Valary Samoei, ShaDawnya Teh



Lillian Marino competes in shotput at the Trojan Relays.

Left to right: Aly Hudspeth, Lillian Marino, Jaela Thomas, ShaDawnya Teh, Leisha Jackson and Micaiah Darity celebrate Senior Day during the Braves Classic on April 8, 2023.



It's a Par-Tee

SCOREBOARD

Women's Golf

Opponent

OS-Opp

Patsy Rendleman Invitational	2nd of 11
LeeAnn Noble Memorial	9th of 16
Jekyll Island Invitational	2nd of 17
Converse Fall Invitational	3rd of 14
Spring Kickoff Intercollegiate	7th of 17
Low Tide Intercollegiate	10th of 16
Barton Intercollegiate	1st of 7
Conference Carolinas Championship	1st of 9



Season Champs!

Coming off the high of winning the conference championship in the previous season, the Braves started off strong in 2023 by coming in seventh place at the Spring Kickoff in St. Augustine in February thanks in part to Georgia Page and her four-over-par 76. They continued this trend by tying with Coker University for 10th place at the Low Tide Intercollegiate. The team once again showed the conference why they were the reigning champs by coming in first at the Barton Intercollegiate on March 14. Elizabeth Ritchie defeated both her opponents at the Bracket Challenge hosted by North Georgia in April. Grad student Amanda Hamrin squeaked past fellow grad student Georgia Page in a playoff on the last day of the Conference Carolinas championship tournament April 18 to take the medal honor as an individual. Their 1-2 finish helped the team to first place overall so they could claim a second consecutive trophy! Hannah Luckett was named Coach of the Year in the conference for the second year in a row.



- 1) Junior Toni Blackwell takes a swing. Blackwell was named to the Academic All-District team in May 2023 by the College Sports Communicators.
- 2) Redshirt senior Hanne Sofie Borgen peers through her rangefinder to find her next target. Borgen was a second-degree student from Norway.
- 3) Georgia Page and Amanda Hamrin embrace after the last hole at the Conference Carolinas Championship. Both were named CSC Academic All-Americans.
- 4) Samantha DeBusk smiles before taking a practice swing. DeBusk was named Academic All-District and graduated with the MBA in May 2023.
- 5) Vilma Evald carded a six-over-par 78 to help the Braves place second at the Jekyll Island Invitational in October 2022 but left after the fall semester.
- 6) Elizabeth Ritchie was named to the All-Conference second team in April. She registered a career-best 78.5 stroke average in 16 rounds of golf this season.
- 7) Vilma Evald, a Swedish national, logged a top-10 finish and tied for eighth place at the 2022 Converse Fall Invitational.



Left to right: Toni Blackwell, Madison Deese, Vilma Evald, Georgia Page, Chessa Lee, Elizabeth Ritchie, Hanne Sofie Borgen, Samantha DeBusk, Amanda Hamrin, Coach Hannah Luckett. Luckett has been named Coach of the Year in her two seasons at UNCP.



Top Row, left to right: Head Coach Paul O'Neil, Assistant Coach Ryan Brown, Jonathan Barham, Rhett Burley, Ethan Ott, David Warth, Zack Chadwell, Tyler Strickland, Christian Jayne, Jonathon Jacobs, Walker Case, Evan McLean, Rhett James, Kody O'Connor, Assistant Coach, Jeff Jefferson, Athletic Trainer Michael Musselwhite.

Middle Row: Ben Whitehurst, Moses Brown, Branden Kunz, Matthew Chism, Will Bruno, Will Hood, Trent Harris, Carlos Amezquita, Isaiah Thomas, Luke Barrow, Chase Jernigan, James Johnson, Spencer Ledford.

Bottom Row: Joey Rezek, Jake Bradley, Gage Tomlin, Blake Hinson, Kasen McCawley, Spencer Faulkner, Jake Inman, Michael Kocen, Will Harris, Colt Wilkins.



Trent Harris makes sure it's not a pop fly in a hit against the Bluefield Rams.

Kasen McCawley gets ready to steal second in a game against Bluefield State University.

Life's A Game Baseball is Serious



Tyler Strickland aims to throw a strike out against Bluefield State. Strickland logged six starts and 25.2 innings pitched and allowed only 22 hits while keeping opponents at a .216 batting average all season.

Do It For SIX!



Head Coach Paul O'Neil gathers his players together during practice for a pep talk.

Head Coach Paul O'Neil

O'Neil begins his 23rd season leading the Braves, and achieved 600 career wins back in 2017. In the last 17 years his teams have enjoyed 30-win seasons 14 times, and two 40-win campaigns when the Braves were still in the highly competitive Peach Belt Conference. O'Neil's teams have broken almost 90 percent of the program records at UNCP and thus have passed down the legendary catch phrase "Do it for 6!" in honor of his jersey number.

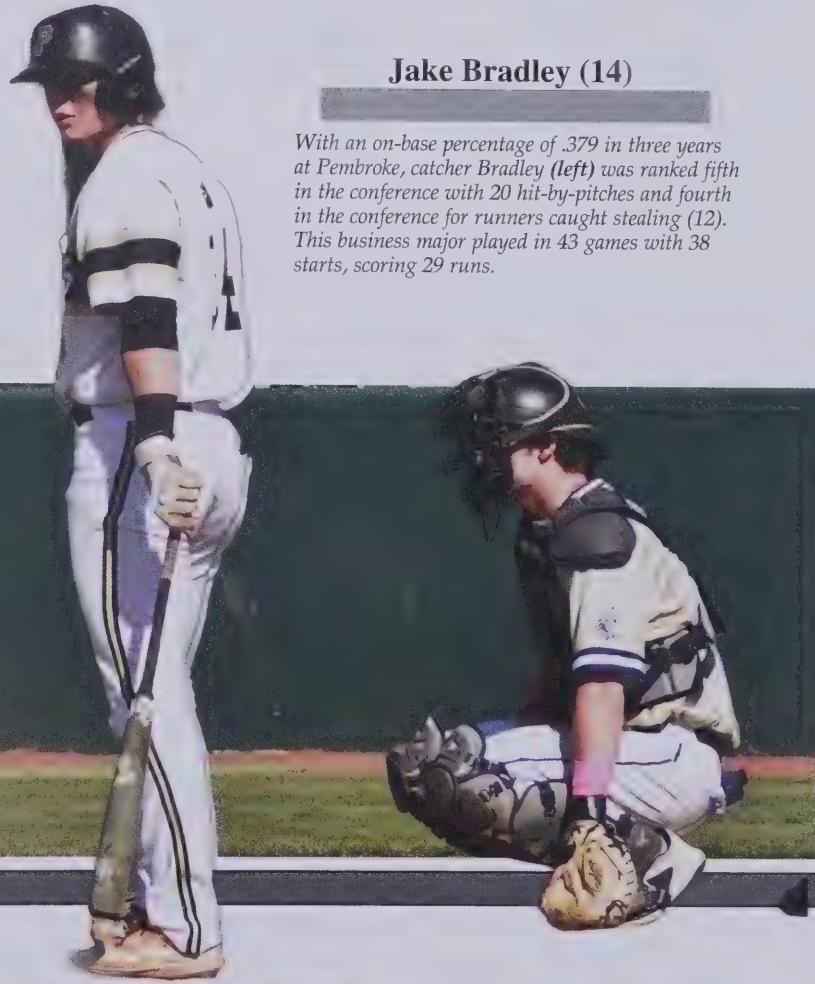
Let's PLAY ball!



Ethan Ott starts to run for first base after getting a hit in the conference tournament.

Jake Bradley (14)

With an on-base percentage of .379 in three years at Pembroke, catcher Bradley (left) was ranked fifth in the conference with 20 hit-by-pitches and fourth in the conference for runners caught stealing (12). This business major played in 43 games with 38 starts, scoring 29 runs.



Practice Makes Perfect

Right: Catcher Jonathan Barham gets some time on the practice pad. He had a 3-game hitting streak and 4 RBIs against Belmont Abbey in February 2023.

Far right: Chase Jernigan warms up in the bull pen preparing to pitch in intersquads. He logged 44.1 innings pitched with 44 strikeouts during the 2023 season.



"What's Your Walk-Out Song?"



Moses Brown- "The Shape Hunts Allyson" from Halloween



Walker Case- "Misty Mountain Hop" by Led Zeppelin



Matthew Chisum- "Simple Man" by Lynyrd Skynyrd



Rhett James- "The Way I Are" by Timbaland



Spencer Faulkner- "Ride the Lightning" by Warren Zevon



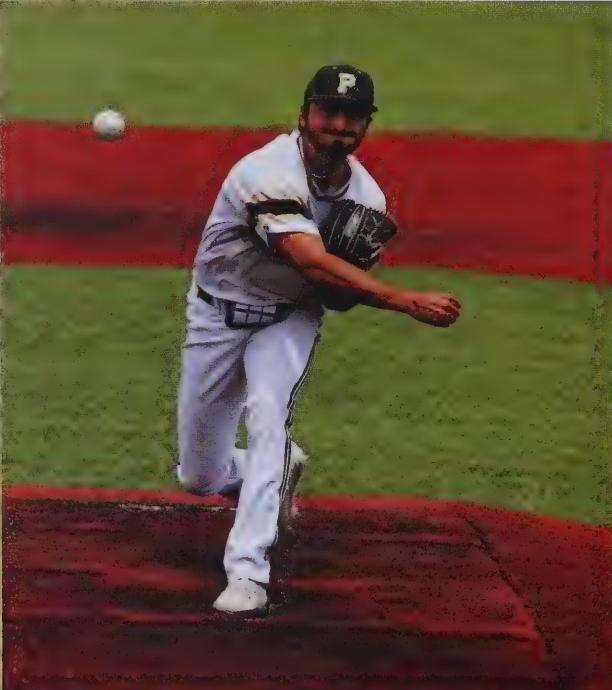
Isaiah Thomas- "Do The John Wall" by Troop 41



Kasen McCawley- "Who You Foolin" by Gunna



Jake Bradley- "We Will Rock You" by Queen



Top left: Sophomore Will Harris pitches against Mount Olive in the conference tournament opener May 4, 2023.

Top: Spencer Faulkner gets ready to tag out the Mount Olive runner in the conference semifinal game May 7.

Above: The team rushes in to celebrate Jonathan Barham on his RBI single in the 10th inning that brought in pinch runner Kasen McCawley to win the conference tournament opening game against Mount Olive.

Photos credit: Kimberly Gerfin

This Team's On Target

Braves go 39-17 overall

Braves baseball sprang into the 2023 season with a national ranking of No. 13 in the Collegiate Baseball Division II Poll and high expectations. With their highest pre-season ranking since 2012 when they were No. 8, the players had a target on their backs from the very start. The season opened with a bang Feb. 3-4 in a shutout against the Saint Anselm Hawks. The next few weekends were a walk in the park as the Braves swept their opponents including 14th-ranked Belmont Abbey.

However, the competition grew hungrier and ironically the Mercy College Mavericks showed no mercy and left the Braves coming away with nothing in an upset Feb. 21 that put the Braves on a three-game losing streak and dropped them to No. 18 in the rankings.

Eventually the Braves would go on to collect a seven-game win streak near the end of the

season, when they were ranked No. 18 among Division II schools across the country.

The Braves lost two in a series against the 30th-ranked Barton Bulldogs April 21-22 and needed to get their act together to face-off against the 7th-ranked Mount Olive Trojans April 28-29, just ahead of the conference tournament. Playing the underdog role, the Braves pulled ahead and ended up splitting with the Trojans, advancing to the conference semifinals, where they lost to the FMU Patriots.

In the NCAA Southeast Regional, the Braves beat the Columbus State Cougars but lost two games to the eighth-ranked Newberry Wolves, who were playing at home. Still, the Braves ended the year with the third most victories in the program's history, including 19 conference wins and 39 wins overall, with an impressive home record of 24-5 for the season.

UNCP	OPP
18	Saint Anselm
13	Saint Anselm
12	Saint Anselm
33	UVA Wise
17	UVA Wise
18	UVA Wise
9	Belmont Abbey
12	Belmont Abbey
9	Belmont Abbey
11	Mercy
7	Shepherd
3	Shepherd
12	Shepherd
15	Catawba
9	Chowan
10	Chowan
7	Chowan
13	Lake Erie
7	Lake Erie
17	Francis Marion
4	Francis Marion
7	Francis Marion
8	Wingate
15	Southern Wesleyan
19	Southern Wesleyan
6	Southern Wesleyan
22	Bluefield State
4	Bluefield State
1	North Greenville
0	North Greenville
3	North Greenville
4	Coker
3	Erskine
5	Erskine
19	Erskine
10	Coker
5	Emmanuel
8	Emmanuel
5	Wingate
18	King
7	King
12	King
11	Catawba
9	Barton
2	Barton
5	Barton
7	Mount Olive
4	Mount Olive
7	Mount Olive
5	Mount Olive
3	Barton
2	Francis Marion
1	Mount Olive
3	Newberry
12	Columbus State
9	Newberry



Kasen McCawley gets a hit against Bluefield State at home. McCawley played in 27 games with 18 starts as a freshman, scoring 17 runs with 17 RBI and slashed .259/.389/.293 in his first year at UNCP.



Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach Tanner Bullard, Athletic Trainer Gabby Hofmeister, Emily Rose, Madison Dyson, Chloe Hunsinger, Abby White, Riley Fox, Olivia Hall, Assistant Coach Ashtyn Patterson, Assistant Coach Lauren Hawley

Middle: Head Coach Stephanie Graziani, Kadence Sheppard, Samantha Allred, MaKenna Sibbett, Abby Riddle, Marijo Wilkes, Kaci Roberson, Cirstin Calloway, Conner Brisson, Assistant Coach Jordan Adcox

Front: Syniah Lancaster, Kinsley Sheppard, Lauren Hillbourn, Mackenzie Collins, Summer Bullard, Madison Carriker

Hustle and heart set us apart



Lauren Hilbourn breaks it down in a huddle during the Braves' win against Converse.

Madison Dyson pitches a no-hitter against Converse on April 12, 2023.

Nothin' soft about our game



Cirstin Calloway celebrates with teammates at home plate. She had her first collegiate hit on Feb. 21 against Adelphi and first collegiate home run against Chowan.



Lauren Hilbourn gets on base and ends up scoring the only run in a loss to West Chester.

Summer Bullard pitches seven innings to take the win in Game 1 against Chowan on April 12.

"What's Your Walk-Out Song?"



Samantha Allred- "Dancing Queen" by ABBA



Conner Brisson- "March Madness" by Future



Olivia Hall- "Grove St. Party" by Waka Flaka



Marijo Wilkes- "Wanted Dead or Alive" by Bon Jovi



Lauren Hilbourn- "I Don't Love Her" by Gucci Mane



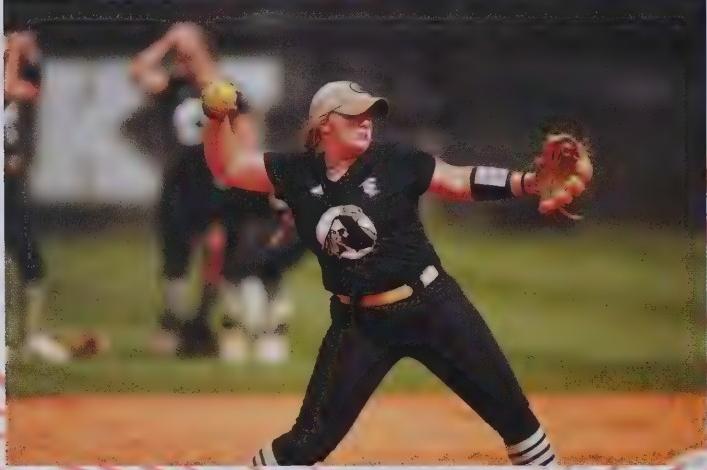
Chloe Hunsinger- "All the Money" by Metro Boomin & Gunna



Kadence Sheppard- "No Problem" by Chance the Rapper



Makenna Sibbett- "Gangsta's Paradise" by Coolio



Madison Dyson pitched 140 innings and recorded 138 strikeouts and 49 walks in the 2023 season. She pitched seven-inning games 12 times at UNCP and graduated in December.

Above left: MaKenna Sibbett fthrows a ball to home plate during warm-ups against West Chester University on March 13, 2023.

Middle: Kaci Roberson is on deck in a game against the Converse Valkyries on April 1.

Above: Samantha Allred earns a run in the Autism Awareness Series against Converse.

Season of change for softball team

Braves find bright spots among challenges



Under first-year head coach and former assistant coach Stephanie Graziani, the Braves weathered some ups and downs--including numerous cancellations of both home and away games because of the weather!

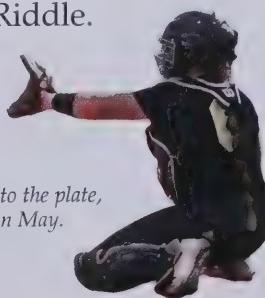
The Braves won two out of three at their own invitational on Feb. 3-5 to open the season before racking up a string of losses against nationally ranked Division II opponents. Even so, they managed to pick up a 1-0 victory over 12th-ranked Anderson University in South Carolina. The Braves lost all four matchups in the UNCP Round Robin Feb. 21-22 but got some time off to practice when the Lenoir-Rhyne Bear Bash was canceled.

In conference play, the Braves beat Southern Wesleyan in March and split a series with Belmont Abbey. Losses to Erskine and Barton put a damper on the season until wins against North Greenville and Converse at home.

They never did get to play Emmanuel this season because of heavy rains in the southeastern U.S. in both March and April.

The Braves secured a place in the conference championship tournament by outlasting Belmont Abbey in a nine-inning thriller on April 29 for a play-in spot. They got blanked by No. 1 seed King University that same day in the first round but stayed alive in the tournament by winning an elimination game against North Greenville. Sadly they nailed just two hits against King right after that and exited the post-season.

The Braves were disappointed in a 20-31 overall record (11-11 in Conference Carolinas), but Conner Brisson was named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team, and five players were named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar list: Brisson, Mackenzie Collins, Kaci Roberson, Chloe Hunsinger and Abby Riddle.



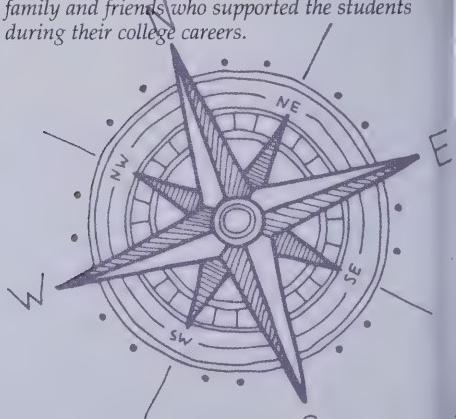
Lauren Hilbourn is known as a catcher but can also play outfield. Stepping up to the plate, she had a UNCP career-high three runs in a game (three times) and graduated in May.

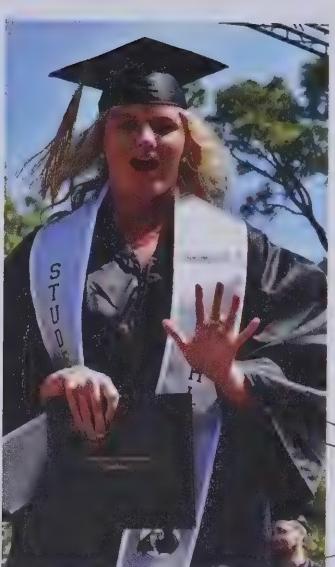
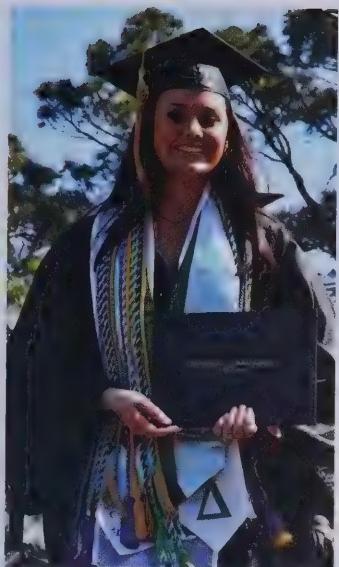
UNCP	OPP
12	West Virginia State
3	Kutztown
5	Tusculum
3	Newberry
3	Newberry
0	North Georgia
0	North Georgia
0	Anderon
1	Anderson
7	Adelphi
0	Wingate
5	Adelphi
0	Adelphi
3	Georgian Court
8	Georgian Court
7	Davis & Elkins
13	Davis & Elkins
2	Catawba
0	Catawba
2	Fayetteville State
13	Fayetteville State
1	West Chester
3	West Chester
8	Southern Wesleyan
7	Southern Wesleyan
4	Belmont Abbey
14	Belmont Abbey
1	Erskine
6	Erskine
3	Barton
9	Barton
11	North Greenville
3	North Greenville
10	Converse
11	Converse
1	Wingate
0	Wingate
5	Chowan
9	Chowan
1	Mount Olive
0	Mount Olive
1	Francis Marion
8	Francis Marion
1	Lees-McRae
3	Lees-McRae
0	King
0	King
14	Belmont Abbey
0	King
7	North Greenville
1	King



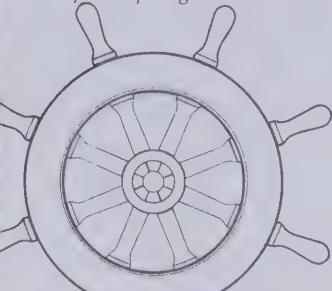
Top: Undergraduate commencement in the spring is a big production on the Quad and takes days to set up. The stage holds various dignitaries and deans of the respective colleges. **Above:** Jayce Allen (left) waits for conferral of the B.S. in exercise physiology with classmate and resident adviser Ismael Basquez.

SGA President Taliyah Daniels tells graduates she's honored to offer congratulatory remarks on behalf of the student government and acknowledges family and friends who supported the students during their college careers.





Left to right: Haleigh Jo Baker wears a lot of flair as a member of the Spirit Squad, Kappa Delta and other involvements. Matthew Geer proudly represents the men's track and field team, for which he competed in shot put and hammer throw. Braves golfer Elizabeth Ritchie flashes her team's championship ring.



Full Dream Ahead!

Graduation season was well underway in the region when 1,117 undergraduates walked across the stage on UNCP's campus May 6, welcoming change into their lives. At the Saturday morning ceremony, SGA President Taliyah Daniels praised her classmates for their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. The keynote speaker was U.S. Treasurer Lynn Malerba, chief of the Mohegan Tribe. She encouraged the graduates to "uyuqômsh wuchee ôpeetak," using a Lenni Lenape phrase which means "dream ahead."

"We believe if you dream it, it will come true," Malerba said. "I hope you will always continue to dream ahead as you prepare to embrace the next part of your journey."

Retired Brig. Gen. Allen Jamerson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, asked graduates to stay connected and to support the school with their time and resources so that UNCP can continue its growth as a top regional university. The names of the graduates in attendance were read with dramatic flair by Theatre Professor Jonathan Drahos.



Cindy Paul, 67, was the oldest undergrad at Saturday's ceremony. She dropped out of then-Pembroke State University in the 1980s but returned to campus in 2019 to earn the B.A. in American Indian Studies.



Jordan Owens, a public relations major, is excited to hand over the slip of paper with his name on it to announcer Jonathan Drahos.

Left to Right: Among the rituals at the Graduate School ceremony is the "hooding" of the degree recipients by Dean Irene Aiken, including Catrina Carpenter, James Phillip Locklear and Danielle Reagan, who all earned master's degrees in education.

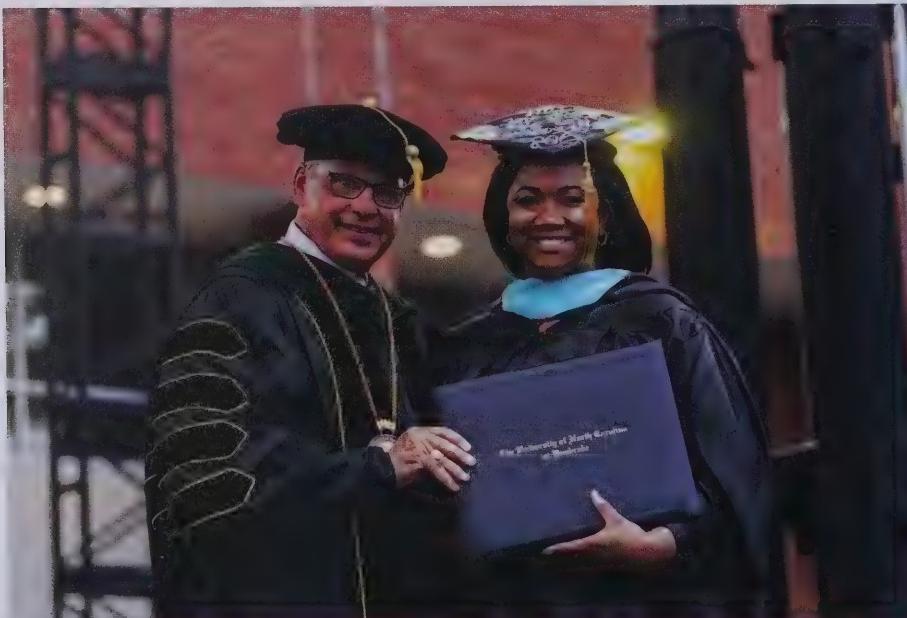


Paint Your Own Picture

The graduate student commencement was the night before the undergraduates' big day, but it was held on the Quad for the first time this year. Season-typical rain in the forecast that had made planners skittish had moved off the radar by Friday morning. The grad students heard remarks from the same guest speaker, U.S. Treasurer Lynn Malerba, who urged her listeners, "Be the author of your own story. Paint your own picture. Sing your own song." She said the graduates' definitions of success will change over time and noted, "That's the way it should be."

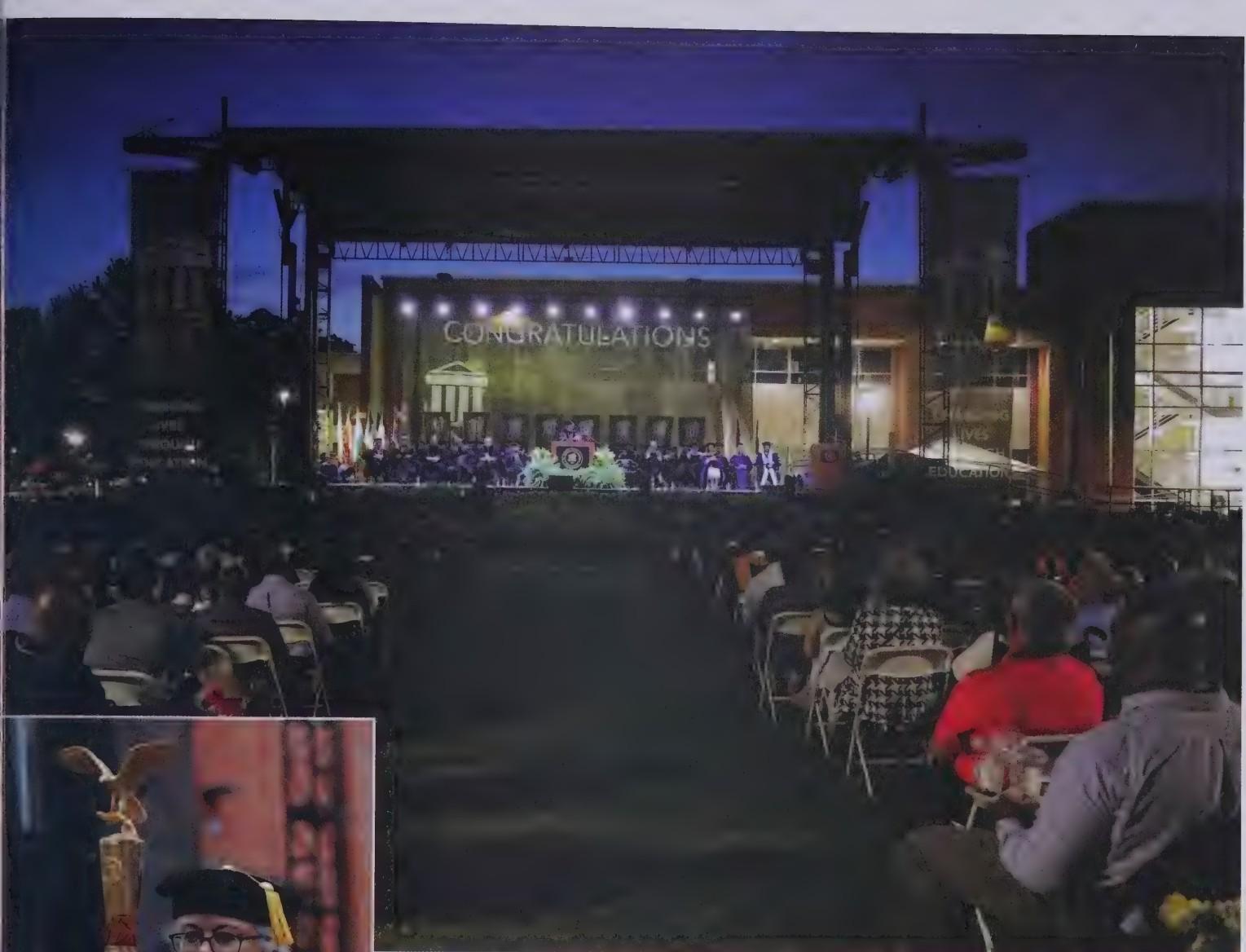
During the ceremony, Dr. Jane Haladay, a professor of American Indian Studies, received a medal from David Powers of the UNC system's Board of Governors as a token of their annual teaching award that goes to one faculty member at each of their 17 constituent institutions.

Hundreds of master's degree students heard their names called and were "hooded" by the dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Irene Aiken.



James Carr listens to the chancellor's concluding remarks after conferral of his master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

Shernetta Noble poses with Chancellor Cummings after receiving her hood for the master of arts in education.



Dr. Jane Haladay carries the university mace that leads the graduates to and from the ceremony. As the 2023 recipient of the Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence, Haladay had duties as Grand Marshal for both days.



Top: As night begins to fall, the crowd begins to enjoy cooler temperatures, and it's easier to focus on the dignitaries making remarks to inspire the graduates. **Above:** AlexAndriA Porter (left) and Jasmine Powell are all smiles as they await conferral of the master's degree in business administration. Grad students begin their ceremony with their tassels already on their left sides.

END OF TERM CELEBRATIONS



Chancellor Cummings (right) helped to congratulate students at the Hispanic heritage cord ceremony in the Annex on April 25, 2023.



Dr. Elise Dixon (right) was the keynote speaker at the lavender cord ceremony.



Graduating LGBTQ students and allies enjoyed a luncheon on April 26.



Jay Locklear (right) was named Outstanding American Indian Student at the pre-graduation ceremony where heritage stoles were handed out.



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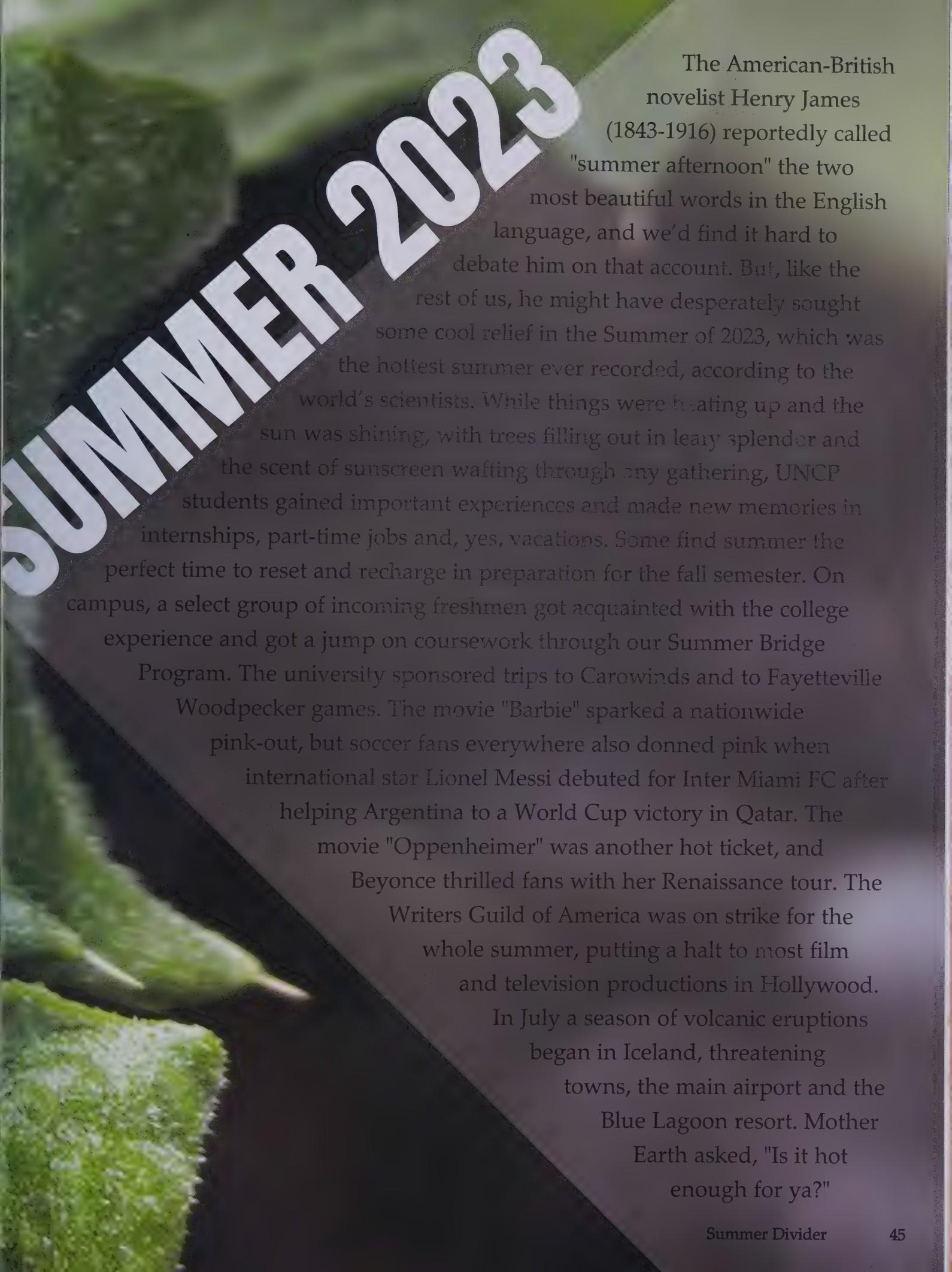
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A seven-spotted ladybug enjoys an early summer morning on a squash plant in the Campus Garden. The garden is tended by students under the supervision of Dr. Bryan Sales of the biology department faculty.

Photo credit: Jamie Litty



SUMMER 2023

The American-British novelist Henry James (1843-1916) reportedly called "summer afternoon" the two most beautiful words in the English language, and we'd find it hard to debate him on that account. But, like the rest of us, he might have desperately sought some cool relief in the Summer of 2023, which was the hottest summer ever recorded, according to the world's scientists. While things were heating up and the sun was shining, with trees filling out in leary splendor and the scent of sunscreen wafting through any gathering, UNCP students gained important experiences and made new memories in internships, part-time jobs and, yes, vacations. Some find summer the perfect time to reset and recharge in preparation for the fall semester. On campus, a select group of incoming freshmen got acquainted with the college experience and got a jump on coursework through our Summer Bridge Program. The university sponsored trips to Carowinds and to Fayetteville Woodpecker games. The movie "Barbie" sparked a nationwide pink-out, but soccer fans everywhere also donned pink when international star Lionel Messi debuted for Inter Miami FC after helping Argentina to a World Cup victory in Qatar. The movie "Oppenheimer" was another hot ticket, and Beyoncé thrilled fans with her Renaissance tour. The Writers Guild of America was on strike for the whole summer, putting a halt to most film and television productions in Hollywood. In July a season of volcanic eruptions began in Iceland, threatening towns, the main airport and the Blue Lagoon resort. Mother Earth asked, "Is it hot enough for ya?"

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Some students decide to take a nice break after a stressful school year, but some also use the summer season to involve themselves in internships to gain experience in their chosen fields of study and in the types of jobs they might want to pursue after graduation. UNCP students have access to a variety of paid or unpaid, credit or no-credit internship opportunities that allow them to not only keep learning but to build their professional network as well. In 2023 there were many who undertook a wide range of challenges, including participation in the Health Careers Access Program and paid positions at state agencies. Thanks to those who shared some of their photos with us!



The Lost Colony

Wanting to improve her public speaking skills and build a network, Rakyah Jacobs undertook a 10-week paid internship partnered with the North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission. She enjoyed meeting the cast of the annual summer musical "The Lost Colony" in Manteo. On May 31 Jacobs attended the 2023 North Carolina Heritage Awards ceremony in Raleigh (above).

Naturally Wonderful

Shelby Perry was a communications and media intern for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, specifically with the Division of Parks and Recreation. She was also chosen along with her section to visit with Governor Roy Cooper to discuss leadership.



HCap Summer Internship

A select group of UNCP students completed six-week clinical internships in various health professions locations.

Left column, top to bottom: Evan Powell, Sayeed Kabir, Reece Hicks, Jasmin Carballido, Adyson Sisk, Kyra Locklear

Right column: Ayed Abudayya, Caitlin Smith, Abigail Lowry, Alexis Little, Ashlynn Cox, Brooke Blackmon

Not pictured: Jordan Locklear and Kimberly Pelagio-Luis



Research or Recreation?

Martina Van Etten (above, middle) worked in a lab at ECU through the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation STEM Summer Immersion Program and studied coastal fish while aboard ECU's research vessel, the SoundByte.

Alissa Jones (above) completed an internship at Town of Pembroke Parks and Recreation that complemented her public relations major.

Summer Bridge participants receive their grant-funded laptops at a festive kickoff meeting on June 26.



Summer Bridge

for FREE. Who doesn't love free things? We got a meal plan and flex bucks that we used at Starbucks. We were also able to cook on our own, because the apartments have kitchens.

I first learned about Summer Bridge from emails the university sent to the incoming first-generation college students such as myself. I was also invited to an information night in Fayetteville, where we went to a Woodpeckers game and got food for FREE.

I wanted to join the program because it was a way to get accustomed to the campus and it would put me ahead of my fellow first-year students. Also, it was FREE, so why not do it?

My favorite parts about Summer Bridge were, first of

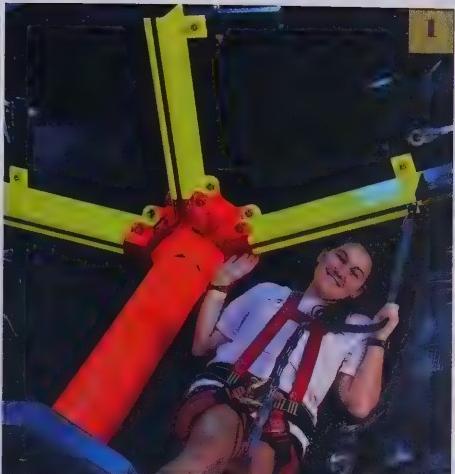
all, everything was FREE, but I was also able to meet new people and indulge in activities that would benefit my college career and my career after college. I was able to learn the campus and meet staff members who would support my education. One of my favorite aspects was being able to be away from home and having a bit more freedom than I would at home. I met tons of people from all over the state and together we made memories that I will never forget.

If you know an incoming first-gen student who has the chance to do this program, I hope you will encourage them to give over part of their summer, branch out, and explore.

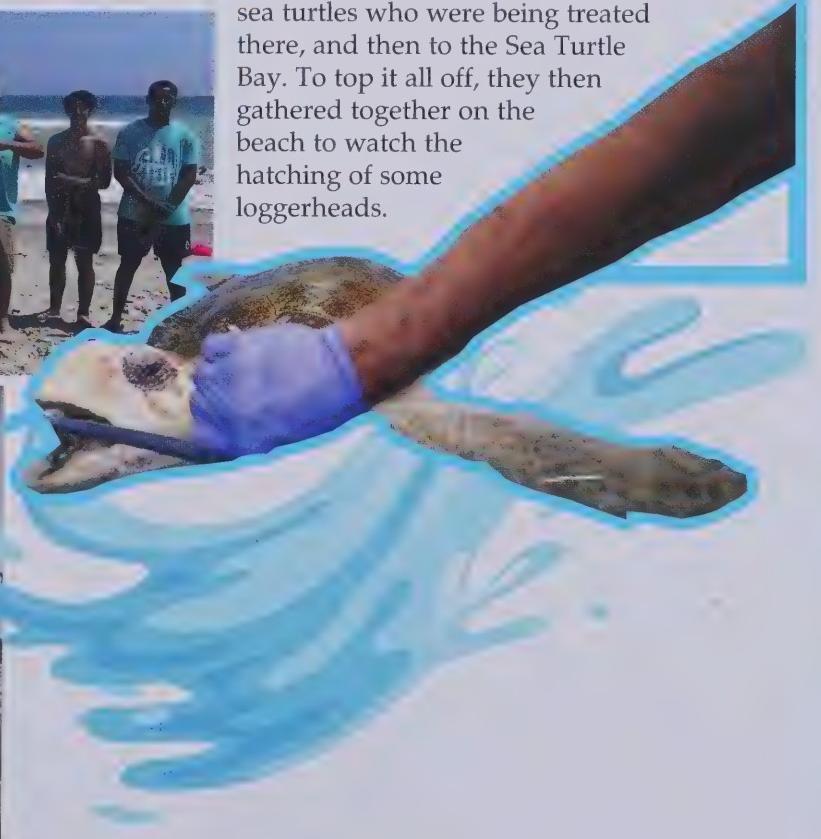


My name is Janiel Mercado-Vazquez. I'm from Fayetteville, but I'm originally from Puerto Rico, and my major is exercise and sport science. Summer Bridge is an exciting and fun way for incoming freshmen to get a firsthand look at what college life is like before the rest of their peers. During these weeks you take two courses, attend leadership seminars, and you get to learn about resources the campus has to offer.

We got to indulge in different activities such as pool parties, games, bingo nights, off-campus trips, and my personal favorite: free food. This year we were fortunate enough to be able to stay in Courtyard Apartments

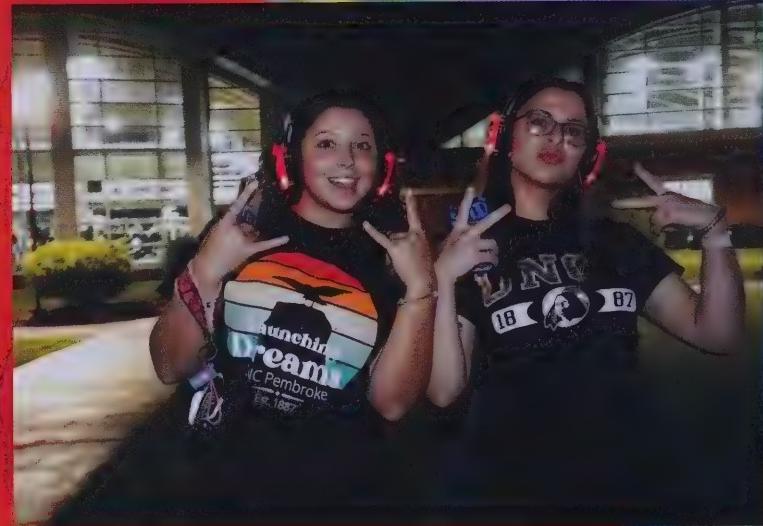
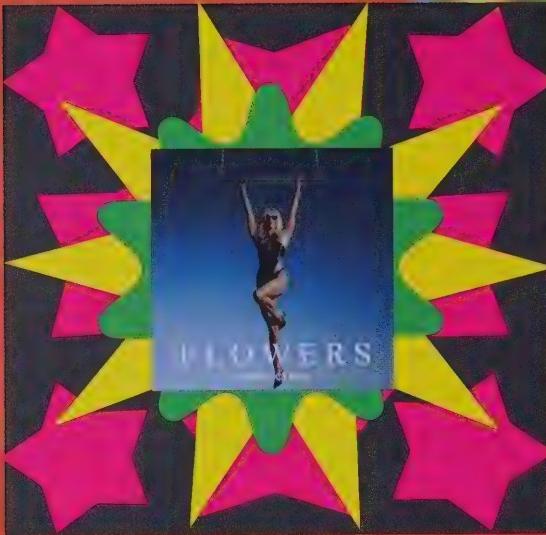


- 1) Peer mentor Rebecca Sexton gets ready for a zipline experience during a trip to Wonder Works.
2) Students enjoy a glow foam party on the Student Center Lawn at the end of a busy day.
3) Samuel Hernandez works on a math problem that will help unlock a box as part of a learning game.
4) Students collaborate on the math game to unlock a box in Melissa Edwards' class.
5) Peer mentor Armani Jones-Elliott talks with Summer Bridge participants about her transition to college.



Beach Day

Students traveled to the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Salt City, North Carolina. They walked through various exhibits where they learned about the legacy of Karen Beasley, the anatomy of sea turtles, and various threats to their population. The students then took a visit to the ICU and had a more up-close interaction with the sea turtles who were being treated there, and then to the Sea Turtle Bay. To top it all off, they then gathered together on the beach to watch the hatching of some loggerheads.



Students chose one of three playlists to enjoy a headphone party on the Student Center lawn in September.

Top Songs

- 1 "Flowers" - Miley Cyrus
- 2 "Kill Bill" - SZA
- 3 "Hey Driver" - Zach Bryan
- 4 "Seven" - Jung Kook
- 5 "Paint the Town Red" - Doja Cat

Days Listened

365

We polled students on who they're listening to these days.



Left and below: Beyoncé's Renaissance World Tour thrilled fans Aug. 9 at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte. Photos credit: Martina Litty



Left and below: Students gather by the edge of the stage at Givens Performing Arts Center for the "Aux Cord Wars" that featured musical competitions and prizes.



Top Artists

- 1 Beyoncé
- 2 Rod Wave
- 3 Taylor Swift
- 4 Drake
- 5 SZA

Top Genre

Hip Hop



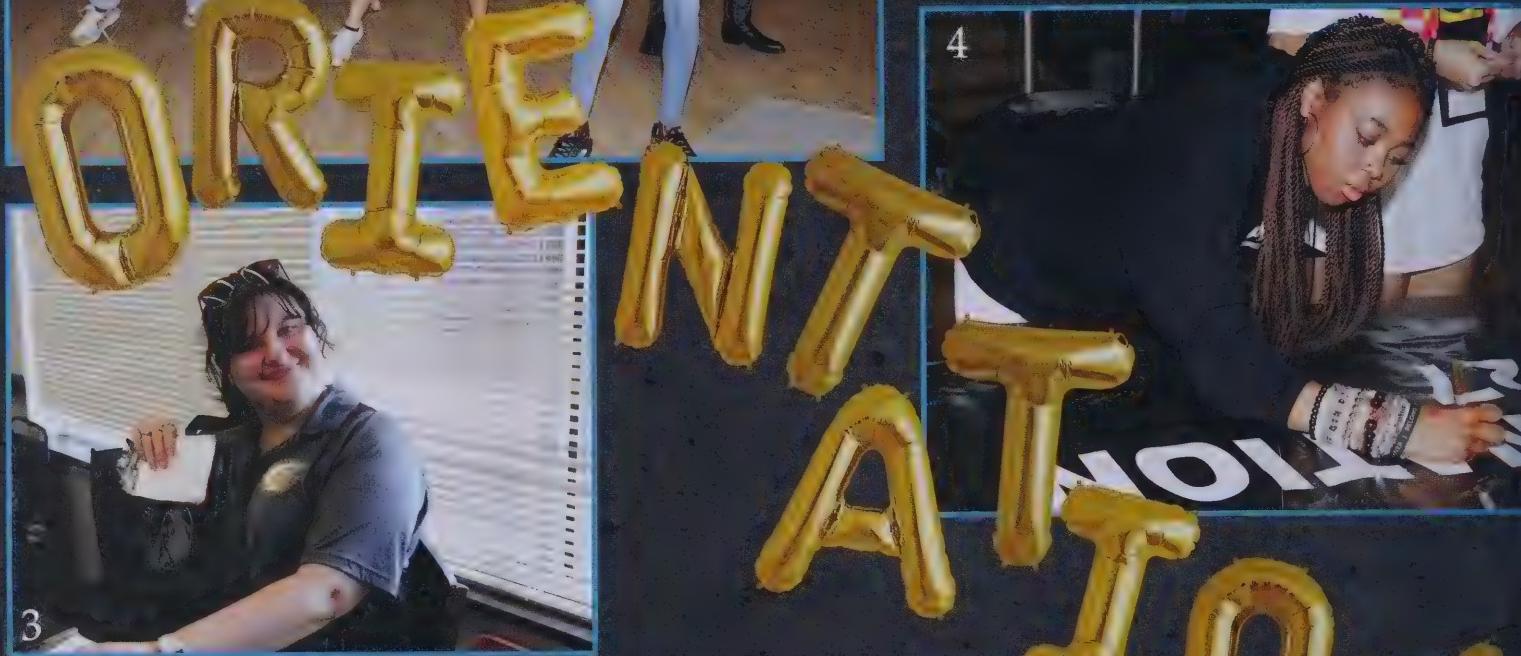
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4



3

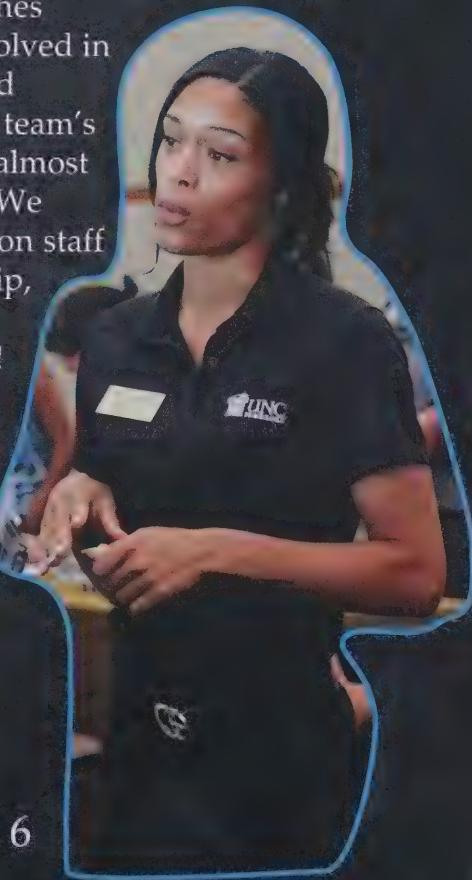


5

"Big" Steps for our Braves

Neil Armstrong said as he made his way onto the lunar surface, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," and in relation, taking a step in the direction of college can create big opportunities for a student's future. However, this transition can evoke feelings of anxiety, confusion and nervousness. Our team of "Out of this World" orientation leaders gets students excited for campus life and provides comfort when feelings of

alienation arise. This team pushes students to not only become involved in campus activities but also involved within the lives of their peers. The team's hard work and dedication impact almost every individual on this campus. We thank the entirety of the orientation staff for taking these steps in leadership, and we cannot wait to see the futures that they will help shape!



6

1) Trinity DeShaun leads a line dance at Orientation.
2) Mykayla Brady and Nigel Freeman get psyched to welcome new students.

3) Emma Cooke prepares bags while students check in.
4) Students sign the Class of '27 BraveNation banner.
5) New student-athletes find each other at orientation.
6) Ayana Mitchell speaks at a campus job fair, inviting more students to join the Orientation Leaders.
7) Volunteers including Trinity DeShaun, Katie Manueles, Rebecca Sexton and Valdez Wilson help students on Freshman Move-In Day.



The Division of Athletics was well represented by staff and student-athletes, as well as Windy Christy, wife of A.D. Dick Christy (front row, far left) and Kelly Haskins, wife of Coach John Haskins between recently graduated Braves golfer Georgia Page and athletics communications director Morgan Sheehan (center). Christina Chow is the director for compliance; Stephanie Graziani, head softball coach; Jaleesa Harper is the head volleyball coach. In the back row, left to right, is Brittany Padilla, assistant soccer coach; basketball player Kalaya Hall; head golf coach Hannah Luckett; executive assistant Andrea Branch-Jacobs; and Shatheta Roverato, wife of swimming coach Oscar Roverato.



With Mrs. Cummings from the Office of Advancement are (front row) Ashleigh Windley, Dr. Rebekah Revels Lowry; (back row) David Hibbard, BreAnna Branch, Tyler Johnson

Ladies



Alumna and benefactor Karen Gibson (left) with Andrea Branch-Ja



Top left: Dr. Irene Aiken, Dean of The Graduate School
Above, left to right: retired nursing professor Dr. Cherry Beasley, Rebecca Cummings, and Jenn McCarrel of University Communications and Marketing
Left: Paula Cummings, special events coordinator at GPAC, and Mary Beth Brayboy Locklear of the Office for Regional Initiatives

The Ladies Garden Party was a summer fundraiser and dinner held May 25 at the chancellor's official residence and hosted by the First Lady, Rebecca Cummings. Proceeds from the table price and the raffle benefited the annual Women's Empowerment Summit. Hats were optional, but those who donned them made a lovely impression!

Garden Party



LUMBEE HOMECOMING

June 24 - July 8

Now nearly two weeks long, the festivities in Pembroke around July 4 that are known as Lumbee Homecoming celebrate family ties and local traditions, and UNCP gets involved by way of their parade, a powwow on the Quad, ambassador pageants at GPAC, and a vintage car show in the Annex parking lot. It's traditional for the chancellor and first lady to walk in the parade and appear at a receiving line on campus. The school sponsors at least one float, and student organizations such as historically Native fraternities and sororities also like to participate.





Paid Advertisement

PROUD. STAY CONNECTED. IN TOUCH.

One of the most rewarding parts of being a BraveNation alum is joining a network of UNCP graduates across the globe. Whether you want to foster campus community long after commencement, reconnect with old friends, make plans to gather a group for homecoming or simply keep up with all the biggest news and happenings, we can help!

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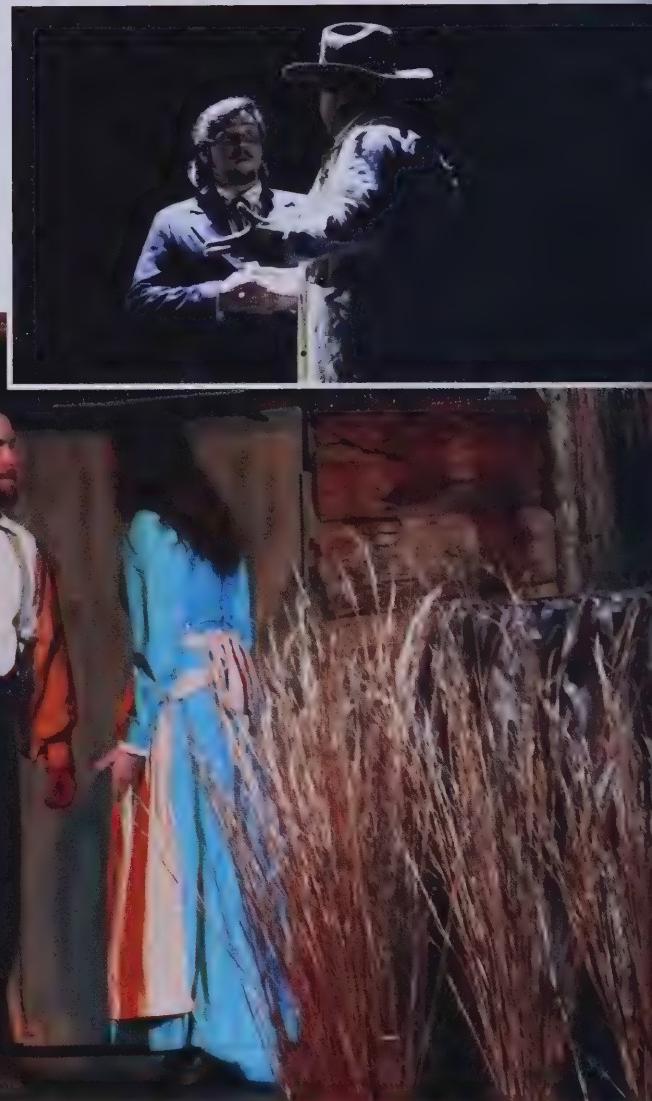
strike at the wind

A Welcome Return!

The long-running outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!" was back on campus July 21-22 as the Lumbee Tribal Cultural Center was still under renovations. The two performances staged in the Givens Performing Arts Center were once again directed by theatre professor Dr. Jonathan Drahos. The story of real-life folk heroes Henry Berry Lowrie and his wife Rhoda begins in 1865. Through a series of violent events, Lowrie ends up leading a band of men in a seven-year war to avenge the deaths of his father and brother.

Nearly all of last year's outdoor cast returned, including UNCP students and alumni, such as Billy Oxendine (Class of 2021) and junior Cheyenne Ward in the lead roles. Helping to round out the cast were students Sean Deam and Cameron Holder and alumnus Jamonte Madison (Class of 2022). The stage manager was Faith Harrison, an alumna now studying at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

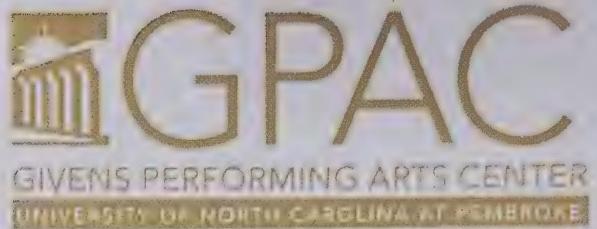
"We have other returning veterans who continue to participate year after year," Drahos said. "It's a true testament to the power of this story in this community." The musical was written by Randolph Umberger and premiered in 1976.



Alumnus **Billy Oxendine** and junior **Cheyenne Ward** repeat their performances in the roles of Henry Berry Lowrie and his wife Rhoda.



The ensemble cast often gathers around The Leader character, who provides some narration and exposition.



INDIVIDUAL
TRX #
312602085
\$10.00

GA Row
Section 460
Seat

Strike At The Wind!

Friday, July 21, 2023

7:30 PM



Bzzzy Bodies

An apiary is a place where honeybee hives are kept. The university's apiary operations promote bee awareness, conservation and beekeeping in general. This year the bees were moved further back so they'd be less likely to bother folks working elsewhere in the garden.

Photos credit: Michael Litty



Southern Fresh

More than 100 varieties of pollinator-friendly plants are growing this year at the Campus Garden, including flowers and tasteable vegetables grown bigger with sustainable practices. This year you'll find okra, corn, strawberries,



Kale, collard greens and German turnips are no longer available. Stem and leaves are still

cultivate & blossom



The Campus Garden & Apiary was established in 2014 for education, outreach and research. It includes a managed meadow and specialty gardens when in season, such as the small "three sisters" plot of beans, corn and squash growing symbiotically. The facility is known for its high tunnel, an unheated plastic-covered structure that's a stage between greenhouse and open field conditions.

Across all four seasons, there are student employees, classes, and interns who plant, tend, harvest and then weather-proof the garden. Faculty-mentored research projects lead to conference presentations and sometimes to co-authored publications for our aspiring scientists.

Beekeeping classes taught by Dr. Kaitlin Campbell help keep these important pollinators alive and healthy out there at the garden, where many species of flowers loved by bees are grown. The Science Education Club sells honey, and products made from honey, such as soap, after a good harvest of the hives and usually on time for holiday gift-giving in December. The bees help to pollinate some of the vegetables. Some of that harvested produce goes to the food pantry at the university's CARE Resource Center to help feed students and other members of our community who live with food insecurity.

The Agriculture Club grows flowers in spring semester for their annual sale of hanging baskets and in fall semester for their mums sale (see next page).

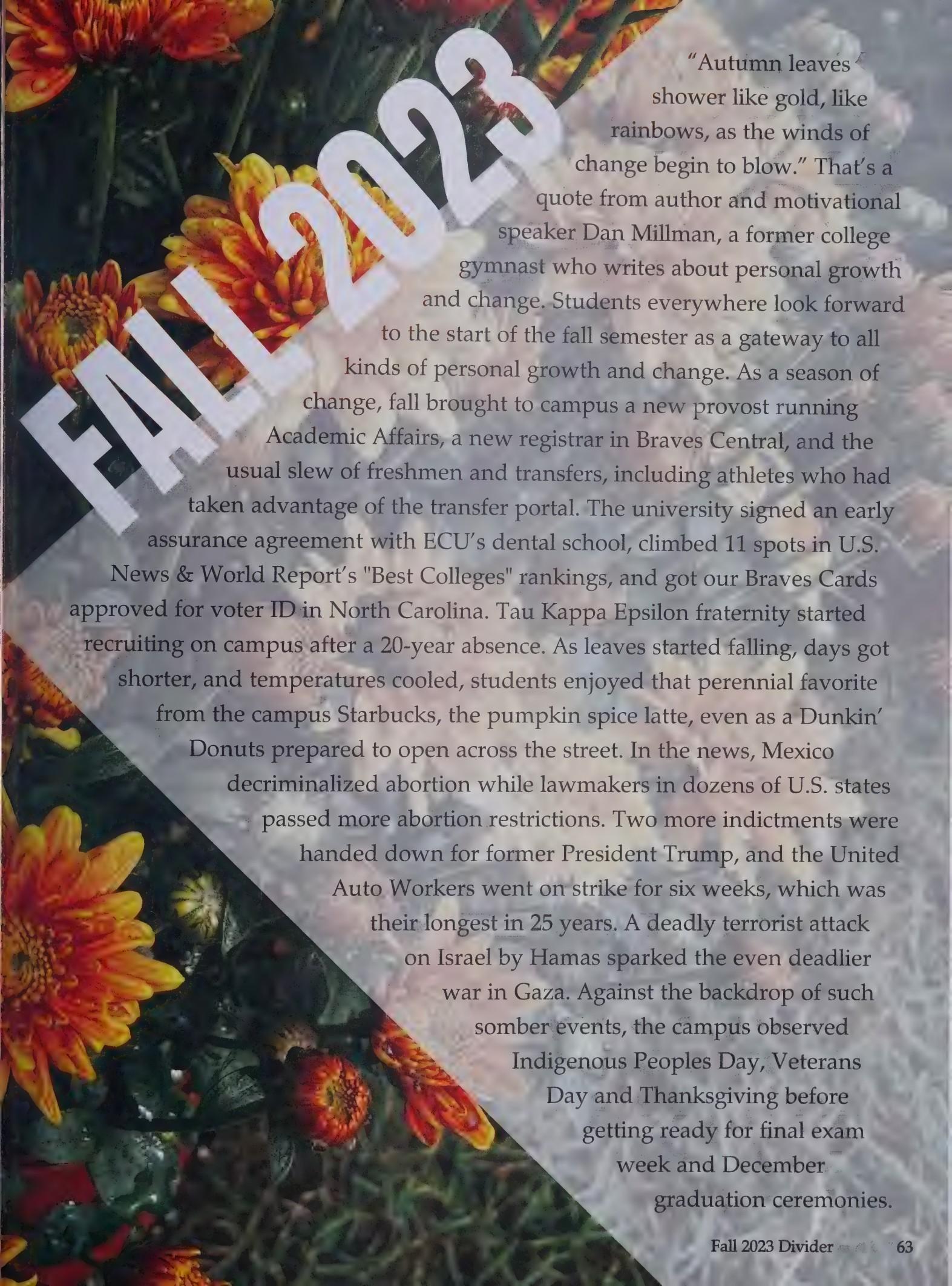
Several faculty over the years have worked with local children in grant-funded summer STEM programs at the garden, including Dr. Rita Hagevik.

Under the leadership of Dr. Bryan Sales, an assistant professor of biology, the garden operations won the Roger Godwin Community Partner of the Year award from the Office of Community & Civic Engagement in May 2023.



The Agriculture Club sells potted chrysanthemums at the annual fall flower sale in the parking lot behind the greenhouse and Oxendine Science Building. The funds from their careful plantings support the club's many needs.

Photo credit: James Taylor



"Autumn leaves

shower like gold, like

rainbows, as the winds of

change begin to blow." That's a

quote from author and motivational

speaker Dan Millman, a former college

gymnast who writes about personal growth

and change. Students everywhere look forward

to the start of the fall semester as a gateway to all

kinds of personal growth and change. As a season of

change, fall brought to campus a new provost running

Academic Affairs, a new registrar in Braves Central, and the

usual slew of freshmen and transfers, including athletes who had

taken advantage of the transfer portal. The university signed an early

assurance agreement with ECU's dental school, climbed 11 spots in U.S.

News & World Report's "Best Colleges" rankings, and got our Braves Cards

approved for voter ID in North Carolina. Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity started

recruiting on campus after a 20-year absence. As leaves started falling, days got

shorter, and temperatures cooled, students enjoyed that perennial favorite

from the campus Starbucks, the pumpkin spice latte, even as a Dunkin'

Donuts prepared to open across the street. In the news, Mexico

decriminalized abortion while lawmakers in dozens of U.S. states

passed more abortion restrictions. Two more indictments were

handed down for former President Trump, and the United

Auto Workers went on strike for six weeks, which was

their longest in 25 years. A deadly terrorist attack

on Israel by Hamas sparked the even deadlier

war in Gaza. Against the backdrop of such

somber events, the campus observed

Indigenous Peoples Day, Veterans

Day and Thanksgiving before

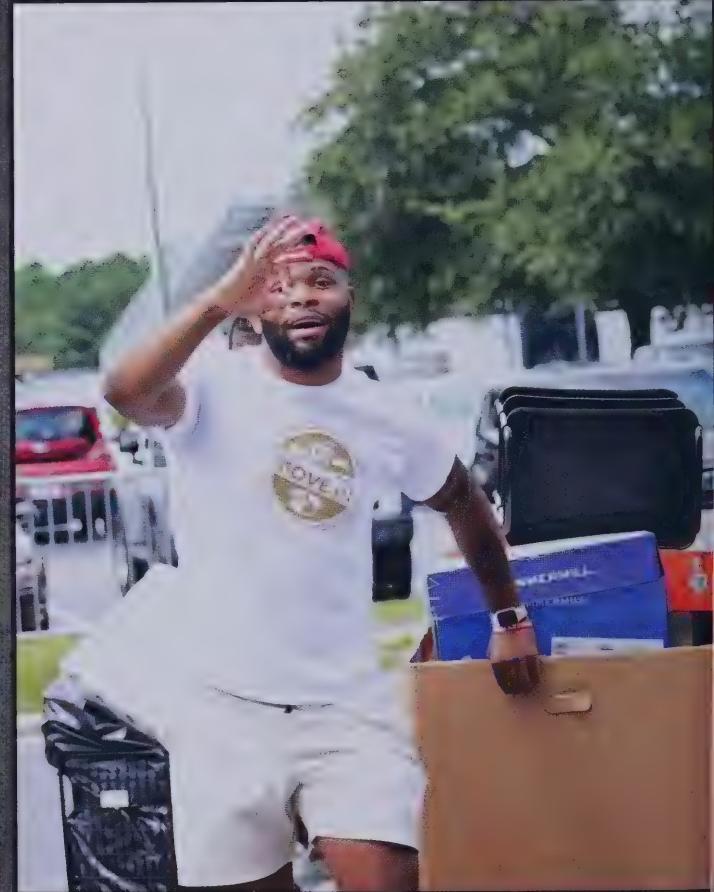
getting ready for final exam

week and December

graduation ceremonies.

Change of Scenery

As a new semester was starting to come around, so did a whole bunch of new faces. As new freshmen arrived on Friday, Aug. 11, a team of volunteers from the campus community as well as sororities and fraternities and many more lent free hands to make this transition comfortable. Freshmen such as Alyssa Lyng (1) and Zach Pierce (2), use cardboard movers in order to transport all their belongings into Oak and Pine Residence Halls. Eagerness for exploration and independence, mixed with a little nervousness about saying goodbye to family, characterized the day. Despite some anxiety about classes and social interactions, we found that UNCP's freshmen adjusted quite well to the Pembroke campus.



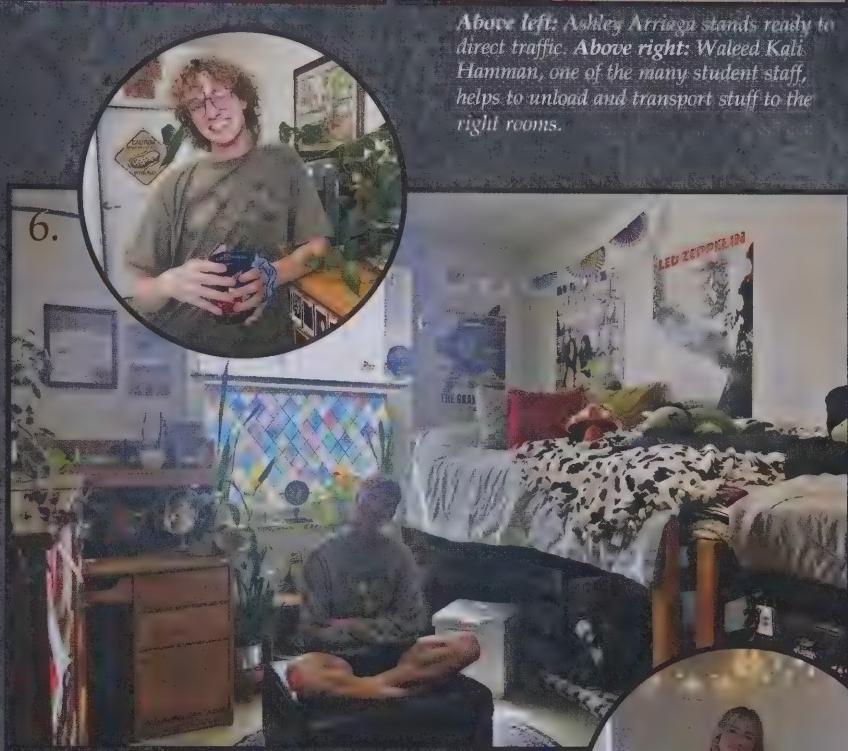
As a junior who has been through this before, Tuan Gauthier shows he's happy to help out and makes the Kappa Alpha Psi hand sign.



4) Ivonne Lopez gets the whole family involved with Freshmen Move-In.



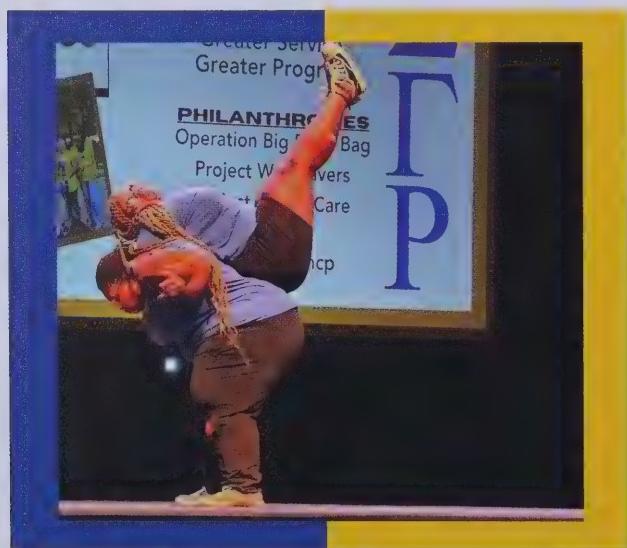
Above left: Ashley Arriaga stands ready to direct traffic. Above right: Waleed Kali Hamman, one of the many student staff, helps to unload and transport stuff to the right rooms.



4) Katie Gregoire decorates the walls of her room with mycology prints and hanging taxes. 5) Harrison Sanderlin puts together a gallery wall of personal memorabilia and antiques. 6) Evan and Cheen Phillips create an open-floor concept living area by fitting their beds along the same wall. They also must love some plants! 7) Lorelei Sanderlin sits along her comfy bed, while her roommate Kaliegh Gary sits at her new desk. Twinkling lights definitely set the mood.



Alpha Phi Alpha alumnus and former UNCP wrestler Darian Edwards leads the group in a stroll with Aaron Lucas (left) on the plaza outside GPAC.



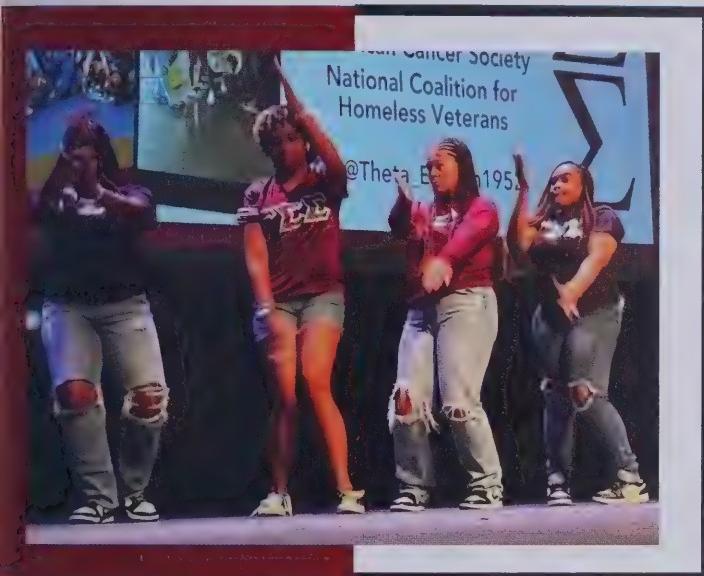
Sigma Gamma Rho sisters Sha'Diamondu Thorne and Talisha Bell perform on stage in GPAC as their group makes its case for students to apply to their organization.



Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters Ladeja Thorpe, Ny'aices King, Aniah McManus, and D'Amrah Rowdy show off their precise choreography to impress prospective members.

Get Your Greek On!

Hosted by the All Greek Council, the annual "Meet the Greeks" event was held Aug. 18 at the Givens Performing Arts Center. It was the end of the first half-week of classes. The fraternities and sororities tabled outside on the plaza to talk to prospective new members but also to socialize after a summer away. In the auditorium, the chapters took turns on stage discussing their values, typical activities and their philanthropies. Some performed strolls they're known for or other physical feats. According to AGC adviser LaKeya Francis, Assistant Director for Campus Engagement and Leadership, the purpose of Meet the Greeks is to give students a glimpse into this facet of college life, to interact and engage with other students, and to learn specifics about various chapters, councils and organizations. Francis said that they're bringing back two organizations this year: one in fall (Tau Kappa Epsilon - TKE - pronounced teek) and one in spring (Lambda Theta Phi, a Latino fraternity).



Gamma Sigma Sigma sisters (left to right) Miya Murphy, Hadiah McAllister, Stephanie Holland and Melinda Dixon demonstrate their chapter spirit on stage in GPAC.



Omega Psi Phi brothers (left to right) Reggie Spratling, Glenn Sutton and Trenton Brown perform in friendly rivalry while seeking new members.



Phi Sigma Nu members including alumnus Coleman Bartley and Ahelayus Oxouzidis made the case for joining their organization.



Zeta Tau Alphas (left to right) Morgan Capps, Jodi Frost, Erica Quintana, Skyla Miller, Hannah Smith and Gracie Shy pause for a pose outside GPAC.



BraveNation Bash



1.



7.



8.



9.

At the BraveNation Bash in the main gym Aug. 15, clubs and other student organizations and campus resources got a head start the day before classes started, to show off and engage new and returning students. Greek chapters used this time to recruit and to promote the big "Meet the Greeks" event later in the week. A range of organizations, from Art Club to Student Government Association, were tabling to provide their group information and free promotional items. Yearbook staff were on hand to continuing distributing the 2023 book that shipped in June. Free hot dogs and soda were distributed by the campus police department in a show of community engagement. Line dancing broke out among the attendees, but planned activities that amused the crowd included the zorb course and inflatable axe throwing.

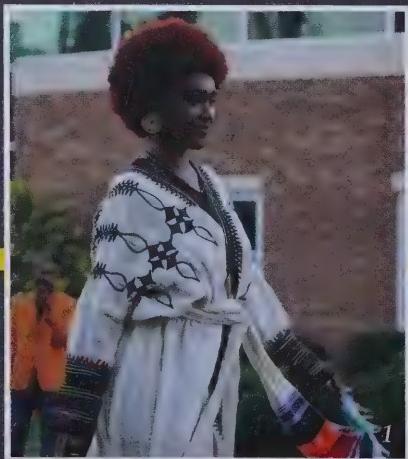
1) Kappa Alpha Psi take the opportunity to recruit. (2) Tkaii Gaither (3) Lucas Lynch (4) Kappa Delta (5) Mackenzie McNeill and Le'lani Askew look at the 2023 yearbook (6) Sha'Diamondu Thorne represents Sigma Gamma Rho. (7) Students enjoy what the DJ is playing. (8) Students play in the zorb course. (9) JG Connor

UNCP Fashion Show

at the Black and Gold Block Party

Just like seasons, fashion changes. As time marches on, fashion takes on new perspectives and designs. On Sept. 15 students had the chance to show traditional and contemporary apparel of their cultures during the "block party" on the SC Lawn. The event kicked off Parent and Family Weekend and got the Office of Global Engagement involved.

Left to right: Amelia Bere represents Zimbabwe, Sharon Daminabo represents the Ijaw people of Nigeria, and Kimberly Karuwe represents Kenya.

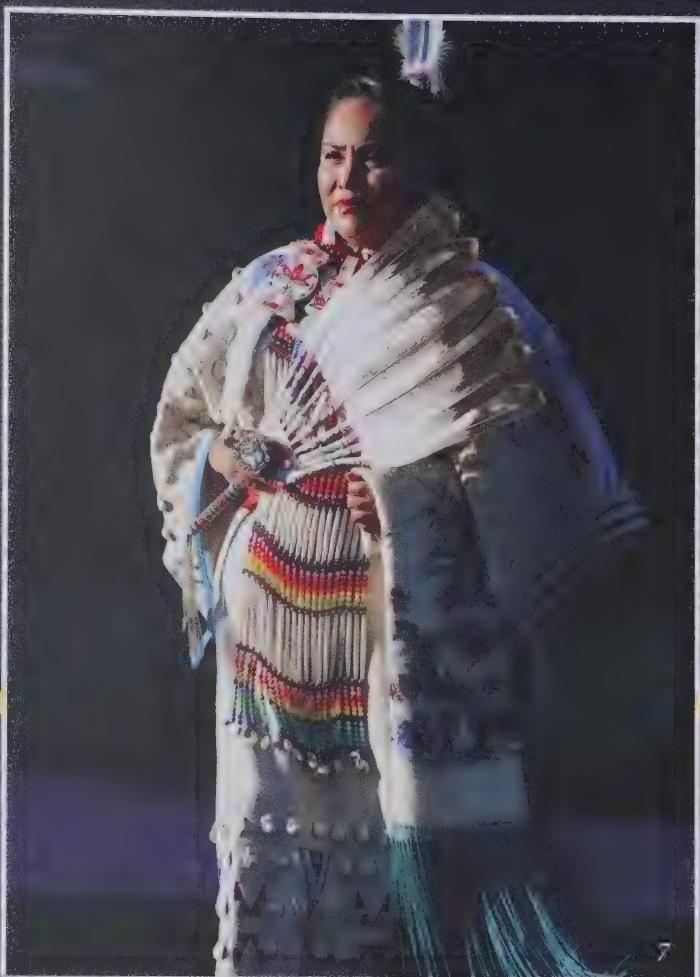


Left: Leo Osei put together an outfit from the Ashanti people in Ghana; Daniel Iluyomade wears a dashiki, a shirt common in Tanzania and Kenya; Zvipo Mateura models a dress to represent the Shona in Zimbabwe.

Right: Aisha Nuamah of Ghana represents the Ashanti Kingdom while modeling a favorite outfit made by her mother.



8



7

1. Ephrata Tsegaye is an international student from Ethiopia.
2. Lisa Vang represents Hmong traditional female clothing.
3. Angelica Hernandez wears a gown with colorful hems and symbols of the Virgin de Guadalupe.
4. Yogesh Kumar models a traditional outfit from India.
5. Shruti Pallissery models a red saree.
6. Leo Osei wears a shirt associated with important life events.
7. Norean Johnson wears a Ute style T-dress decorated with elk teeth and beadwork in the styles of the Ute and Nez Perce.
8. Jimena Diaz Becerril is accompanied by Salvador Lopez.



6



5



6

UNCP CONFESS!ONS

I would run someone over to make it in time for Fried Chicken Friday.

Wish I was a BAC station

I walked in on the changing one time

I stole out THE CHURCH OFFERING PAN!

I pick my nose

I smoked pot w/my teacher

I sometimes go months w/o washing my sheets

Me and my professor are dating.

I let three football players sleep in my room but we didn't do no sleeping

I wish I had a bigger butt

The uninspiring this

I kissed multiple girls on one night!

Started smoking at 14

I jump trains and buses : In NYC the Bronx

I eat Nutella

I liked a guy for years found out that I am not

Been catcalled BY A CRAP HEAD from 50 yards away

I'm gay and just messsed
with him for
the experience

used quizzlet on 90% of my assignments,

I hope Andrew got
to money what.

I Judge the hell out
of everyone.

I jumped in the
water display naked

kissed claire's boyfriend

I am actually bi

EX-BESTFRIEND IS A DRUG DEALER

miss my poodle

I sharted last night.

I got deported my
freshmen year.

I still drink in my dorm
farts on other people

I drunk
+ enjoyed it

I got locked up over the summer!

I hate pointe!!

I really think most of
the white men are
hot.

I set the fire alarm off @ cypress the first day

At multiple events in the fall, we asked students to share some of their deepest secrets, opinions and untold confessions-- anonymously, of course! Their answers may surprise you. And some of them we couldn't print! What would YOU write? We left you some space.

Big life changes in store for 'Marcus'

University Theatre presents third play in trilogy

Marcus, the son of characters who were first introduced to campus last year in University Theatre's production of "The Brothers Size," comes out to friends and family in what has been described as a coming-of-age story. "Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet" is part of a trilogy by Tarell Alvin McCraney and follows 16-year-old Marcus as he develops his sexuality while trying to figure out his dreams and learn more about his late father.

The play was directed by Dr. Jonathan Drahos and ran Sept. 22-23 on the GPAC main stage. Raekwon Wilkes, a psychology major, said he had to step out of his comfort zone as a



A background ensemble performed interpretive dance and represented various community elements in the story.



In the scene shop De'Ja McIntyre gets ready to perform the role of Osha as her costume is fitted.



heterosexual to get into the role of Marcus.

"It was an experience I will never forget," he said. "I think it's really big for somebody who's not a theatre major to get a big role."

His character has two best friends: Osha (De'Ja McIntyre) and Shaunta Iyun (Cameron Holder). Osha has a crush on Marcus and has no clue he is gay. There are some shocking moments, as when the audience discovers that Shua (Seonte McKeithan) is dating Osha after having sex with Marcus.

As the play went on, the cast had to speak stage directions (for example, "Marcus shrugs") and break the fourth wall by narrating to the audience. The audience reacts with laughter and gasps at many moments. A student in the audience from Robeson Community College, who gave her name as Jayda, said she came with a friend and loved the play. "The people in the back did really good. The [leads] in the play did really good. They knew their lines."

The head stage manager, Kenzie Chavis, was in charge of every light, sound and backdrop projected in the show.

--Story by Kia Wynn

Meet The Cast:

Marcus - Raekwon Wilkes
Shaunta Iyun - Cameron Holder
Osha - De'Ja McIntyre
Ogun Size - James Frazier
Oba - Mya Bryant
Shun/Elegua - Delondra Betha
Shua - Seonte McKeithan
Oshoosi Size - Joseph Holder
Terrell - Marquis Crosland



Left to right: De'Ja McIntyre as Osha, Raekwon Wilkes as Marcus, and Cameron Holder as Shaunta Iyun perform in unity during this scene.



With the use of masks, actors are made available for multiple roles and can represent the fictional community of San Pere, Louisiana.

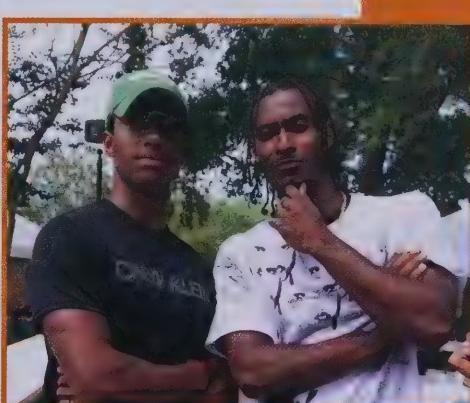
Photo credits: Kia Wynne, Andrew Thrift, Touré Moore

Pembroke Day





The university held the 33rd annual Pembroke Day on Sept. 28, and the Quad was packed. The weather was "on brand" for the season and for this fall semester tradition that brings university and region together in mutual promotion. Local merchants and service providers attracted students to their tables with free goodies, while student organizations and university departments tried to recruit or raise funds. Entertainment was provided by the UNCP Concert Band, the Pembroke Singers, marching band and the Robeson Rockers, a senior citizen line-dancing troupe. Free health screenings and vaccinations were offered.





#quadgoals



Pembroke Day (cont.)

SEASON OF CELEBRATION

Spirit Squad members: Aaliyah Ward, Courtney Darden, Abby Brunner



BraveHawk and Lamar Courrion walk the parade route together.



Above: Members of the student organization Cru line the sidewalk to cheer on the parade.

Left: Gretchen Gillenwater and Mason Schwenneker dress as a bowling ball and pin to represent the Hawk's Nest bowling alley.

HOMECOMING EVENTS

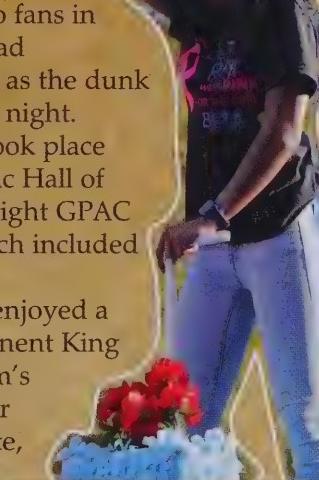
Homecoming was a week-long celebration, Oct. 23-27. The week began with the 1887 Society announcing their new inductees: Abe Hall, Ranya Johnson, Whitney Peck, Magally Ortiz-Rojas, Cara Martin, Madison Schwenneker and Shelby Perry. These students serve in outstanding roles at the university and are committed to UNCP's professed values of service, learning, engagement, school spirit, integrity, leadership and courage. They were chosen from among the many applicants who likewise had stellar resumés and letters of recommendation that had been submitted in their behalf.

Tuesday the Residence Hall Association held their annual Spirit Fest on the lawn of the Chavis Student Center, with games, crafts and DJ Killinem. Thursday and Friday were jam-packed with events to mark the occasion as a real return home to the alma mater. Thursday the parade wound its way from downtown Pembroke to the campus, showboating many kinds of departments, clubs, sports teams, and performances from the Spirit Squad and the Spirit of the Carolinas Marching Band. No bonfire was scheduled this year because of the expense, but Moonlight Madness took place the same night. The 23-24 basketball teams were introduced to fans in the Jones Center for an evening of intrasquad scrimmages and friendly competitions such as the dunk contests. Fans also competed for prizes that night.

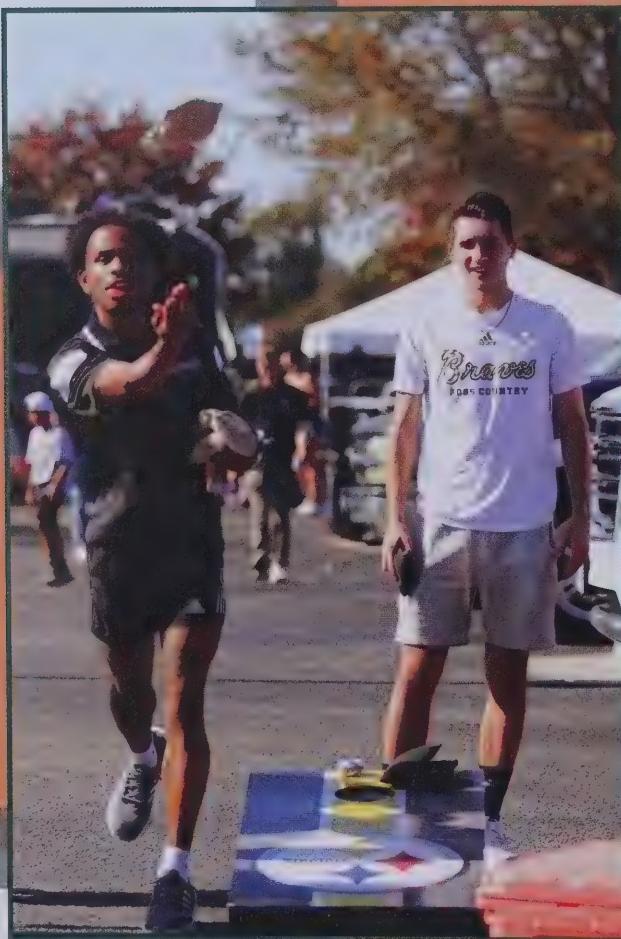
The annual Alumni Awards ceremony took place Friday night in conjunction with the Athletic Hall of Fame inductions in the Annex. That same night GPAC was host to the Lorrie Morgan concert, which included lumbee bass player Randy Smith.

On Saturday the Braves volleyball team enjoyed a 0 victory over Conference Carolinas opponent King University, and then it was the football team's turn. They came away with a huge win over Mountain East conference foe Glendale State, thrilling fans as they racked up 31 points and sent the Pioneers home scoreless!!

Top to bottom, this page:
Student-athletes can walk or ride on a float sponsored by Athletics; Hoku Nosi organizations Alpha Pi Omega and Phi Sigma Nu promote their upcoming guest speakers; Jamal Pass marches with the color guard; Armani Jones cheers for Zeta Phi Beta; new inductees of the 1887 Society are introduced to the crowd; members of Spectrum show their pride; Kacia Grant has fun on the float with W.O.M.A.N. of UNCP group.



TAILGATING VIBES BRINGING FANS TOGETHER!



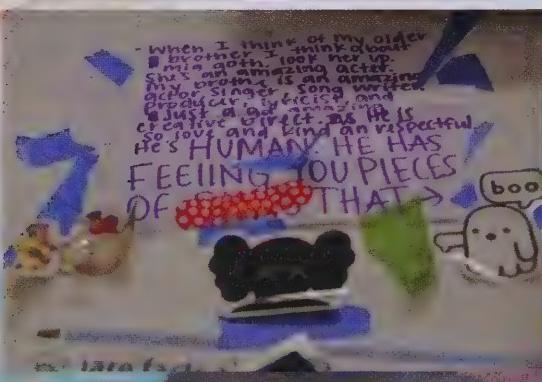


Homecoming (cont.)

Pandemonium

Every semester you will find some studio art majors presenting their senior capstone exhibits. Indeed, the last month of any term seems like "senior season" in Locklear Hall's A.D. Gallery. Senior installations feature the students' best work and represent what they've learned during their college careers. In the fall the public enjoyed two shows, "Pandemonium" and "Hidden Lives." In the Pandemonium installation, which opened Oct. 27 and ran until Nov. 9, Ebonie Howard, Micaiah Darity and Braves basketball player

Alcenia Purnell showed a range of works in both two and three dimensions that were developed over many semesters earning these hard-working students their B.A. in Art.



and Hidden Lives



The Hidden Lives installation was on view Nov. 14 - Dec. 1, with an opening reception held Nov. 18, a Saturday. Phyllis Lowery, Samantha Martinez and Bethani Paul were the stars of this exhibit. In their co-authored artists' statement, they noted, "It can be impossible to know someone's deepest feelings, what someone's life truly entails every day, or who someone truly is within themselves. Hidden Lives encapsulates a common link of humanity within all things and encourages connection on a deeper level with our community and those integral within them."

A How We Get Around

With many students' classes occurring back-to-back with just a fifteen-minute window to get from one to the other, sometimes it can be a bit daunting to be punctual. However, there are bike loans accessible to all students through the Braves Share Program. This allows students with a valid university ID to rent out a bike specifically for local transportation and exercise purposes. Tri-wheelers known as shopping bikes are also available. The basket on the back helps!

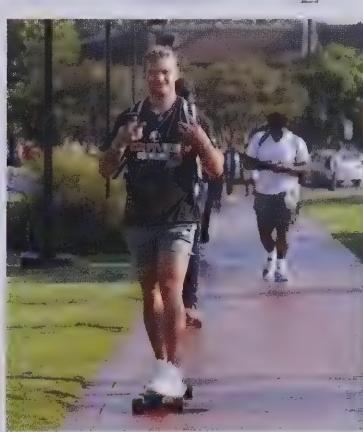
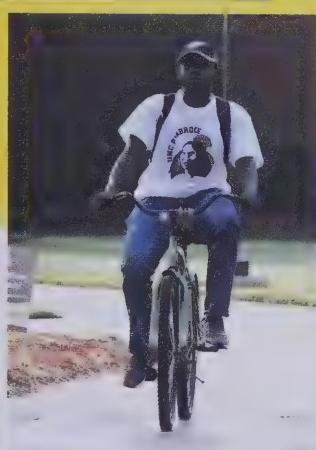
Those are for daytime only, but of course students aren't limited to bikes and trikes on campus. Some own different means of human-powered transport such as skateboards or non-motorized scooters. Electric scooters and hoverboards are also sometimes seen on campus, but they're prohibited from university buildings because of the battery hazards.

University photographer Willis Glasgow took these snapshots of students on the first days of classes in August and January.



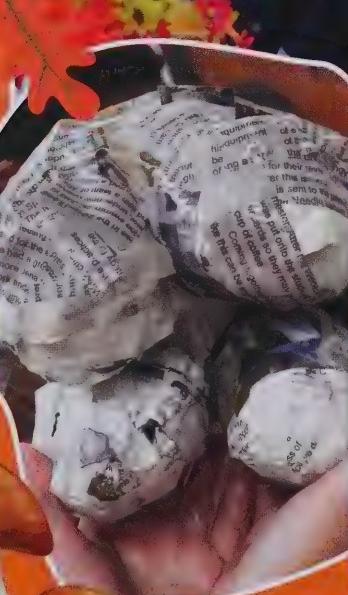
“There are many spokes on the wheel of life. First, we're here to explore new possibilities.”

-Ray Charles



Outside the Textbook

Academic clubs are a great way to dive deeper into your major or interests. Some clubs have different responsibilities from season to season, like the Agriculture Club. Their flower sales in fall and spring raise money for future projects (**facing page**, Minerva Martinez works the mums sale in October). The club had an award-winning entry in the homecoming parade again this year (**below**, with Alaqua Jacobs). The Art Club organizes seasonal art sales for students to sell their work. Art Club President Lily Clausen says the club helps build community and draw more people towards the major. Last semester they also hosted an evening of making papier mâché and a second evening to paint when it was dry (**facing page, left to right**: Lilly Clausen, Jackson Moselle, and Deja Stevens).



A Papier-mâché lady made by Art Club
President Lilly Clausen.



In the Acto Latino theater group, students who have an interest in Spanish and dramatic arts are brought together through the performances of Spanish-language plays. At the Hispanic Heritage Fall Festival on Sept. 28 they performed skits, as seen on both of these pages. The Chemistry and Physics club aims to share a love for science and hosts a monthly game night (facing page). They helped UNCP with trick-or-treating for local kids, who they also like to share science with (above, left to right: Mercedes Yanick, Hannah Leviner, Keirahlee Garry and Edward Gamache).

Fall into Learning

Honor societies on campus aren't merely for recognizing UNCP students for their academic achievement. Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society (1) provides public service, like reading Native American children's books for the Hoke County schools on their literacy night. Beta Sigma Gamma, the honor society for international

business majors (2) aims to provide members with resources and opportunities that can help accelerate their careers.

The Criminal Justice Club (3 & 4) provides students with extracurricular activities, such as field trips (Scotland County jail trip shown here) and guest speakers (such as Hope Mills Police Chief Dollinger and K-9 Kadeen). The group helps in learning outside the classroom and to see criminal justice principles in different scenarios and places.

The UNCP Rocket Team under the tutelage of Dr. Steve Singletary (5) is similar as a retreat



1.



2.



5.



3.



4.

HCAP provides health information during Pembroke Day.



6.



from the classroom and into fieldwork. Their activities, including national competitions, develop students' experiences in STEM and "launch" their career interests. Some of the members build for the First Nations Launch, while others build for the NASA Student Launch.

The North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (6), known more popularly as HCAP, seeks to provide a space for underrepresented minorities who can be educated, trained and employed in health professions. At UNCP the program includes a Heath Careers Club that engages in community service projects. The president this year is Lindsay Branch, and the adviser is Dr. Natalya Locklear.

Campus Engagement and Leadership (CEL) has made it a goal to cultivate active learning in order to develop students' capacity for leadership, along with creating a robust campus experience. LEAD Fellows (7) serves as an extension of CEL and they're founded on a social change model. Peer leaders facilitate workshops and experiential learning for the student body.



Left to right: LEAD Fellows Julisa Hernandez Feria, Treasure Springs, Ranya Johnson, adviser Abdul Ghaffar, Catarina Maggio, Tiffany Smaw, Benjamin Rodgers

STUDENTS

PROFILE



RIZIHERY SAENZ

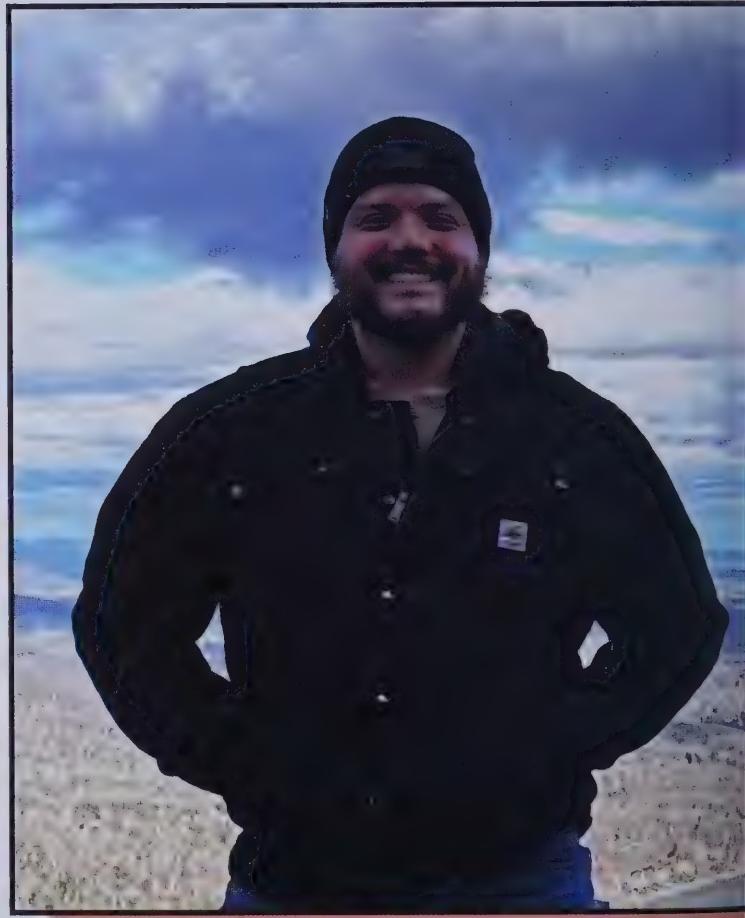
Senior

Rizihery Saenz, or Rizi, is originally from the Bronx but moved around a lot and ultimately graduated from high school in Clinton, North Carolina. He's a social work major with a minor in medical sociology, and helping others is a passion of his. Rizi is a stay-at-home dad to a two-year old daughter while commuting from Fayetteville as a fulltime student. Despite the challenges, he maintains a high GPA.

Rizi is a disabled U.S. Army veteran and president of UNCP's chapter of Student Veterans of America, a service organization. He's also a member of Spectrum and the Pre-Law Society. These involvements have been "an incredible experience, as they have enhanced my learning all throughout my time at UNCP," he said. His hobbies include hiking, family outings and reading. He volunteers in the community when he can.

Rizi said he has met amazing people throughout campus. The professors in particular have played a crucial role in his success, with support and understanding ever since he started this educational journey.

--continued on next page



"Trust yourself, focus on your studies, and prioritize sleep."

"My time at UNCP has changed my perspective on education and its opportunities when it comes to the possibility of choosing a career and specialty," Rizi said. "The possibilities are endless." His advice to freshmen: "Trust yourself, focus on your studies, and prioritize sleep!"

###

SHELBY PERRY

Senior

Shelby Perry is a senior from Charlotte who chose to major in public relations because she has a passion for writing and public speaking, skills she believes are valuable in various professional settings. Her first on-campus job, as a media specialist for the Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity, played a pivotal role in shaping her.

"It helped me become the best version of myself," she said. "It made me more self-aware." Her subsequent positions with the All Greek Council and Pembroke Activities Council allowed her to further connect with peers and faculty. Shelby said she has met many people here who will hold a significant role in her life after she graduates, such as Assistant Dean of Students Abdul Ghaffar.

Shelby persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic by staying active at UNCP, which included her time as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha and as a cheerleader on the Spirit Squad. She said becoming a senior made her feel like all her hard work paid off and she can make her family proud. In the fall she was inducted into the 1887 Society. After graduation she hopes to work for a public relations agency. She also plans to someday run for office in Charlotte so she can participate in decision-making for the city's constituents.

Shelby says she will miss the people at UNCP who made it feel like home. Her advice to any freshmen who might be feeling impostor syndrome is to "remember you belong here." "It's okay to be different," Shelby added. "Get involved with the right people, and don't forget to have fun."

---Profiled by Jalayna Pough



"Get involved with the right people, and don't forget to have fun."



Braves football had a remarkably successful year under their new head coach, Mark Hall, who made the change from Chowan in December of 2022 after two years as head coach there. He changed up the assistant coaching staff as well and brought a change of culture to the Braves, which apparently includes winning. It was a record-breaking season for the Braves on many levels: most wins in a season since 2016; most points in a game; highest points-per-game average; most all-conference honors in the football program's history; and so on. Volleyball had a change in coach, but not a new face, in former assistant coach Jaleesa Harper. No change in winning ways: the team won the East Division title and made a good run through the conference tournament before dropping the title match to Emmanuel on Nov. 19 in Charleston, South Carolina. The soccer team continued to lay the foundation for their dynasty under head coach Lars Andersson by dominating their season with a 12-4-3 overall record and a conference record of 10-1-3, claiming the crown in Conference Carolinas again, with a huge win over rival Belmont Abbey. NCAA Division II postseason play remains elusive, and the Braves fell to Catawba College in the first round on Nov. 16. Sophomore Mercy Bell scored two hat tricks during the season. Women's golf kicked off their fall play with a few invitationals and fared well in each of them, showing promise for next semester and the second part of their schedule. The men's and women's cross country squads added to their trophy case by winning the Conference Carolinas 8K team title on the men's side and placing runner-up on the women's side, where they also had a first-place finish from Moureen Kimaiyo in the 6K. Both squads got to run at the NCAA Southeast Regional, where the men's team finished seventh overall and the women came in 12th out of more than 20 teams. The Division of Athletics was allocated a one-time \$1 million boost to their budget from the state in anticipation of future revenues from legalization of sports betting in the state.

FALL SPORTS

2023



Fall Sports Divider



The Braves offense lines up at the 24-yard line in the game against Concord University on Nov. 11, which they went on to win, 68-21, for American Indian Heritage Day.



Sincere Baines (29) creates an opening for quarterback Colin Johnson's 7-yard rushing touchdown against Glenville State.



JaQuan Kelly scores on a 78-yard run in the second quarter against the Glenville State Pioneers.



Coach Hall doesn't know it yet, but he has little to worry about in the Nov. 11 game against Concord.



JaQuan Kelly's touchdown in the 3rd quarter isn't enough to stop the loss to Charleston on Sept. 16.

Scoreboard

UNCP	OPP
19	17
35	37
29	37
37	19
41	20
21	31
49	7
56	0
49	0
68	21



Trey Dixon and Malik Tobias (2) celebrate the 35-yard touchdown pass caught by Diaz Alexander (84) in their victory against Glenville State on Oct. 28. That was three wins in a row for the Braves and the eighth consecutive Homecoming victory. Tobias, who followed Coach Hall from Chowan University, caught six passes for 146 yards and scored three touchdowns in the game. The Braves defense limited the Pioneers to just 45 yards rushing. The Pioneers had come to Pembroke averaging 134.7 rushing yards per game.

Season of Records 68

The most points scored in a game (against Concord)

7 The most wins since going 10-2 in 2016

Points Per Game average for the Braves this season
40.4

Change in coach, change in outlook

The Mark Hall era is officially upon us and a new brand of football has been introduced. Hall wasted no time in picking up his first win as Braves head coach by reclaiming the Two Rivers Classic Trophy in a thrilling 19-17 victory over Fayetteville State in the season-opening home opener Sept. 1. Freshman kicker Ty Woods was a hero in his own right that Friday afternoon when he kicked the game-winning field goal as time expired.

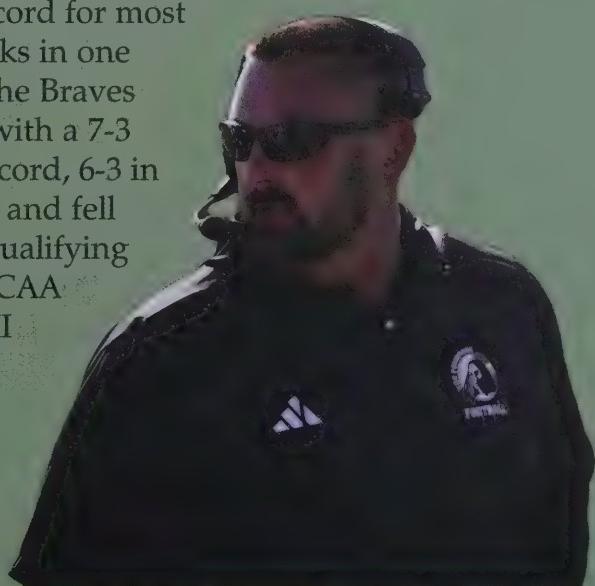
The remainder of their schedule was all conference play. After a two-game skid, they beat West Liberty on the road, and the record-breaking party began when they welcomed Wheeling to town on Sept. 30. A close first half between both sides quickly turned one-sided as the second half hit. The 13-13 tied ball game turned into a 41-20 win over the Cardinals. Wide receiver Trey Dixon broke a school record for receiving yards going 240 yards on seven catches. Quarterback Colin Johnson dished up six touchdown passes, tying a school record set by Luke Charles.

The offense broke records for rushing touchdowns and rushing yards in the team's dominating 49-7 win over the Fairmont State Falcons, one of the top teams in the Mountain East Conference up to that point. By the time Homecoming came around on Oct. 28, the Braves were coming off a 56-0 shutout victory over West Virginia Wesleyan. The Braves put on a show for all the returning alumni by recording another shutout with a 49-0 win over the Glenville State Pioneers. They earned consecutive shutout wins for the first time in program history.

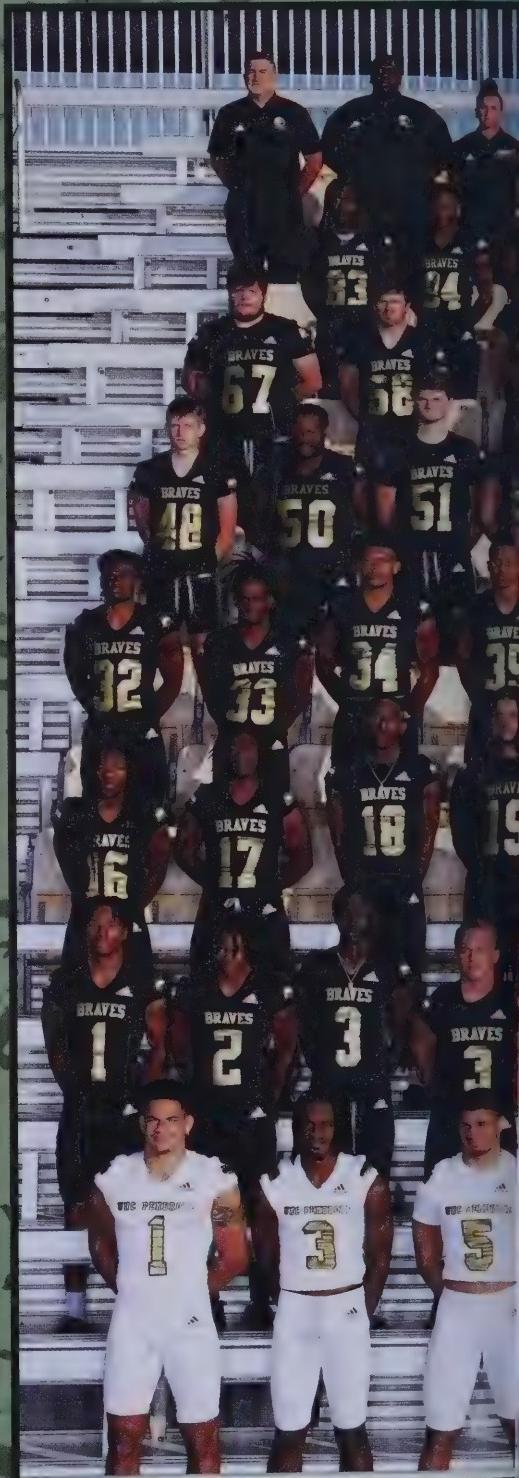
The Braves ended the season with a bang (not including the fireworks after the game) with a 68-21 win over Concord on American Indian Heritage Day. Freshman Sincere Baines broke the school record for most rushing touchdowns in a game (5). Redshirt junior Jamae Blank broke the school record for most single sacks in one season. The Braves finished with a 7-3 overall record, 6-3 in the MEC, and fell short of qualifying for the NCAA Division II playoffs.



The team runs out of the tunnel in a preview of the pyrotechnics to come later for the American Indian Heritage Day game against Concord.



Meet the Team



row 1 (bottom): Saige Ley, Trey Dixon, Sean Hill, Brandon Spencer, Keshawn Pickett, Sam Dunn, Jordan Gregg, Jeremiah Smith, Raydarius Freeman, Colin Abney, Dallas Caporletti, C.J. Davis, Tyreke King.

row 2: AJ Hoggard, Malik Tobias, Bocar Ly, Michael Lawson, Jo "Wang" Hayes, Jhi McCullor, Jamae Blank, Emerson Wall, Travis Dupree, Colin Johnson, Caleb Erce, Carsyn Crouch, Malik McKinzie, Kyle Hill, E.J. Gatling, John Mark Shaw, Evan VanMeter

row 3: J'Vin Farmer, Kyree Edwards, Jervis Bryant, Caleb Locklear, JaQuan Kelly, Patrick Shook, Jamiel Davis, Caleb Hester, Justin Foreman, Latrell Jewsome, Antonio Crim Jr., Cadym Graves, Keshawn Jefferson, Sincere Baines, Alijah Barber, Simeal Burke

row 4: Evan Powell, Ethan Sellars, TJ Griffin, Elias Alston, Jaiden Nesbit, Quentin Cooper, Blake Page, B.J. Tobe, Prince Williams, Darren Morrison, Trent Brown, Justin Chavis, Jolerion Webb, Seth Bowen, Jackson Hills, McKinley Uzzell

row 5: Ty Woods, Philip Tonsel-White, Zach Hobson, Nate Smith, Tony Pitt, Loden Ford, Brion Brunson, Gabriel Simpkins, Amari Chance, Cameron Berry, Donavin Insberry, Jeremiah Rodgers, Myles Fennell, Nick Melchiorre, Dustin Hall

row 6: Christian Olivas, Paul Edens, Jacob Perry, Will Guion, 71, Dave Bonnet, Roston Barber, Miles Parker, Jiawan Sanders, Hunter Turner, Kaceion Williams, Iris Russell, Justin Anderson, Jayden Smith

row 7: Jeremy Cain, Diaz Alexander, Devin Tolbert, Josh Miller, Jovany Doe, Braylon Fowler, Keith Pittman Jr., Davion Jackson, Julius Jackson, Landon Johnson, Justin Reaves, Zylique Lewis, CaSaan Dixon, Austin Cowick

row 8 (top): Paul Brooks, Jaylian Petty, Alex Oliver, Trainer, Coach, Jayden Riley, Bryce Witt, Colin Neely, Mark Hall, Bryan Harris, Gilberto Ortiz, Brian Frierson,rik Pratt, T.J. Denson, John Wheeler





Top row, left to right: Gabe Blackwelder, Payden Lewis, Jack Phieffer, Nathan Marks, Delsin Burkhart, Norman Junker, Bryan Viera, Sean Todd
Bottom row: Lucas Nervo, Christian Whiteside, Kevin Vazquez, Daniel Mejias, Conrad Robertson, Hunter Levy, Elisha Kipsang, Will Clancey

Men's cross country claims second straight Conference Carolinas title

The Braves finished off their fruitful season by winning the conference crown for the second straight year, just like the preseason poll predicted. At the Oct. 21 championship race, junior Jack Phieffer crossed second in the 8K with a time of 24:55.1, which was a personal best. He was the top finisher for the men at most events this season. The team overall had three top-10 finishes this season, to go along with a seventh-place finish (out of 28 teams) in the NCAA Southeast Regional, where six runners had personal-best times, including Norman Junker (31:18.4) and Delsin Burkhart (32:06.3). Junker, from Germany, and fellow sophomore Elisha Kipsang, a Kenyan, were named to the USTFCCCA All-Academic Team on Feb. 1 in recognition of their GPAs and their NCAA regional finishes.



Multiple Braves brought home hardware from the team's second conference champions



Elisha Kipsang and Hunter Levy lead a pack of runners during the Conference Carolinas Championship 8K race in Charlotte on Oct. 21. Levy finished in 1 place and Kipsang crossed 22nd, shaving off the last few points for the Brave

Elon Shortcourse Open
UNG Invitational
Akiah McMillian Invitational
UAH Chargers XC Invite
Conference Carolinas
NCAA Southeast Regional

7th of 13th
2nd of 8th
3rd of 15th
14th of 45th
1st of 13th
7th of 28th



Left to right: Mariah Spencer, LaNiya Harris, Malea Bennewitz, Jackline Kosgei, Moureen Kimaiyo, Michela Gritti, Karen Piro, Jaqueeta Moise

Women's cross country places runner-up in title race, claims individual medal

The Braves had a strong season after the Elon Shortcourse Open, with two top-10 team finishes before the Conference Carolinas championship 6K run on Oct. 21 in Charlotte, where 22-year-old freshman Moureen Kimaiyo earned the medal with a time of 22:07.1. Junior Jackline Kosgei came in third with a time of 22:29.6, and four other Braves ran personal-best times, including Karen Piro, who came in 20th.

Kosgei earned an individual medal earlier this season, at the Akiah McMillian Invitational on Sept. 30, when she ran the 6K in 22:18.7. The team came in second overall at that event. She was the league's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The Braves finished their season with a 12th-place finish in the NCAA Southeast Regional out of 24 teams.

Kimaiyo was named to the USTFCCCA All-Region and All-Academic teams. The award goes to runners with at least a 3.25 GPA who finish among the top 30% of runners at their regional championships.



Moureen Kimaiyo earns the individual women's medal in the 5K conference title race.



Michela Gritti helps the team move up on the leaderboard in the conference 5K.

Elon Shortcourse Open	12th of 14th
UNG Invitational	4th of 9th
Akiah McMillian Invitational	2nd of 16th
UAH Chargers XC Invite	23rd of 41st
Conference Carolinas	2nd of 13th
NCAA Southeast Regional	12th of 24th



Front row, left to right: Nicole Cook, Freya Lodge, Eugenie Amidou, Anna Grossheim, Chiara Coppin, Anna Bass, Ilaya Bigford, Jayana Nicholson, Ashley Forbes, Reagan Carr

Back row: Devyn Hart, Cora Taylor, Kalena Walters-Wright, Bea Vazquez, Ashleigh Harris, Mercy Bell, Morgan Hill, Abigail Lowry, Estela Lestander, Allison Jones, M. Cancio



Abigail Lowry is on her way to a goal in the 20th minute against Barton College on Sept. 27. The Braves crushed the Bulldogs 8-1.



Mercy Bell (right) hustles to retain ball control in the 5-0 victory Sept. 9 against Converse. Bell made her first collegiate hat trick in this game.



Anna Grossheim keeps the ball out of Braves goal territory in a dominating win against the Converse Valkyries. The senior midfielder had 11 shots on goal in this game.

UNCP	OPP
0	North Georgia
6	Davis & Elkins
5	Converse
1	Limestone
2	Lee-McRae
3	Belmont Abbey
3	Mount Olive
8	Barton
3	Chowan
2	Francis Marion
3	Wingate
10	Erskine
1	Chowan
2	Barton
3	Francis Marion
2	Mount Olive
1	Barton
2	Belmont Abbey
0	Catawba

the dynasty is born

In the 2023 season, the Braves continued to lay the foundation of a soccer dynasty in Conference Carolinas. The Braves shook off a season-opening loss to North Georgia, a loss to Limestone and then Belmont Abbey (despite Mercy Bell's second hat trick of the season), making whatever changes were necessary to turn their fates around. Down 3-0 against Mount Olive on Sept. 23, they rallied late to force a draw against one of their fiercest rivals. They went on a winning streak from there that was interrupted only by two draws against conference opponent Francis Marion University.

Their 2-0 win to end the regular season against Mount Olive was just enough to give the Braves the East Division crown and clinch a bye to the semifinals of the Conference Carolinas tournament. The Braves met Barton on Nov. 10 in Browns Summit, North Carolina, where they were battle-tested for 59 minutes before Ashleigh Harris scored what would turn out to be the only goal of the game. In the championship title bout Nov. 12, UNCP faced off against Belmont Abbey, who had delivered the Braves one of their few losses of the regular season. Wasting no time, an Ashleigh Harris goal in the first 34 seconds, followed by Abigail Lowry in the third minute, made a huge opening statement. The Braves brought that energy to the remainder of the match and kept the Crusaders to a single goal early in the second half, claiming their third straight Conference Carolinas crown.

The Braves were seeded #7 in the Southeast Region in the NCAA Division II tournament and drew #2 seed Catawba for a match in Salisbury on the college's home pitch. There the Braves' post-season ended with a 3-0 loss. The Braves finished the season with a 12-4-3 overall record and a conference record of 10-1-3.

Awards poured in for the Braves, starting with the All-Conference first team comprising Anna Grossheim and Mercy Bell; second team Nicole Cook; third team Chiara Coppin. Bell was named Conference Carolinas Offensive Player of the Year. Five players were named to the CSC Academic All-District roster: Grossheim, Cook, Ilaya Bigford and Abigail Lowry. Grossheim added to her accolades when she was named to the D2CCA All-Southeast Region team (with Mercy Bell); United Soccer Coaches All-Region; D2CAA All-American; and the Conference Carolinas Elite 23 and Academic All-American rosters.

Top: Anna Grossheim attempts to steal the ball away from a Belmont Abbey defender in the Braves' 3-4 loss on Sept. 19 at home.



The Braves celebrate Ilaya Bigford's equalizing goal in the tie against Mount Olive at home on Sept. 23. Facing forward, left to right: Mercy Bell and Morgan Hill.

conference champs **3** in a row



Freshman defender Reagan Carr sees action in the 5-0 victory against Converse on Sept. 9 at Lumbee River EMC Stadium.



Senior defender Nicole Cook earns her spot on the United Soccer Coaches All-Region roster.



Senior Ashleigh Harris is within striking distance but provides the assist to a Mercy Bell goal against the Converse University Valkyries. Harris made All-Conference this season and was named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region roster.

UNC P Volleyball

Braves find success through adversity

Under first-year head coach Jaleesa Harper and first-year assistant coach Molly Lambillotte, the Braves found themselves with a winning season while battling through adversity at times. The Braves started the season off strong in out-of-state tournaments before hitting a bump in the form of a four-game losing streak. A tri-match sweep against Chowan and Winston-Salem State at home on Sept. 16 snapped that streak, but they dropped the next two events against conference opponents.

Something needed to change, and it did. The Braves got back on track and went on a five-game win streak in Conference Carolinas that included three decisive victories on the home court.

The road for the Braves was a little rough at times, and that was where they were tested the most. They finished with a 6-7 record on the road. But they made up for it with a dominating home record of

10-3 on the Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court.

The Braves finished the season with a 21-14 overall record and a Conference Carolinas record of 12-5. A victory over Mount Olive cemented the East Division title for the Braves, and they moved on to the conference tournament. They ran over King University, Francis Marion, and Mount Olive on their way to the final game on Nov. 19 against Emmanuel in Charleston, South Carolina, a rematch of last year. But this time the Lions had their revenge when they won three out of four sets. Making the All-Tournament team from the Braves were seniors Katie Pressley and Vanja Przulj.

Przulj was also named to the D2 Conference Commissioner's Association All-Southeast Region team and the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Region team. This marks the first time that a player in the program has received both



Vanja Przulj Katie Pressley

honors. She broke the school record for the most kills in a game at 32, which is also a D2 record for most kills in a five-set match. Pressley broke the volleyball program's record for career assists that has stood since 1995, leading the school with 2,918. Hope Turbyfill was named to the CSC Academic All-District team.





Top row, left to right: Assistant Coach Molly Lambillotte, Tyler Patterson, Delphinia Beams, Ruby Countryman, Emma Fraidenburg, Katie Wakefield, Precious Daley, Katelynn Swain, Ashley Hester, Head Coach Jaleesa Harper, Athletic Trainer Bradley Jackson
 Bottom row: Abby Peduzzi, Kyleigh Coghlan, Katie Pressley, Hope Turbyfill, Vanja Przulj, Katelyn West, Karagyn Durco, Anaya Carter

Senior Spotlight

#9 Vanja Przulj
Outside Hitter

#6 Hope Turbyfill
Defensive Specialist
Libero



#4 Katelyn West
Outside Hitter
Right Side Hitter

#2 Katie Pressley
Setter
Libero

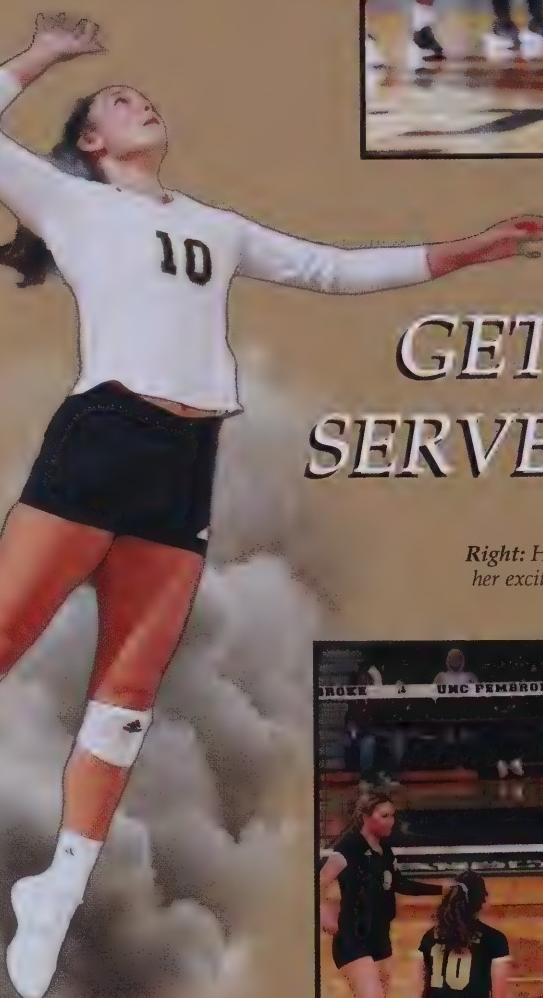


Above: It's all about form, and Abby Peduzzi showcases that form as she plants her feet and cushions the ball.



Right: Senior Katelyn West and junior Emma Fraidenburg cover an offensive attack on net.

UNCP	OPP
3	Glenville State
3	Cedarville
0	Palm Beach Atlantic
3	Shepherd
3	Fayetteville State
1	Millersville
0	Gannon
0	Charleston (W.Va.)
2	Lenoir-Rhyne
3	Chowan
3	Winston-Salem State
1	Francis Marion
0	North Greenville
3	Southern Wesleyan
3	Barton
3	Converse
3	Belmont Abbey
3	Mount Olive
0	Erskine
1	Lander
3	Young Harris
1	Emmanuel
0	Augusta
1	Wingate
3	Elizabeth City State
2	Chowan
3	Lees-McRae
3	King
3	Francis Marion
3	Barton
3	Mount Olive
3	King
3	Francis Marion
3	Mount Olive
1	Emmanuel



GET SERVED!

Right: Hope Turbyfill shows her excitement as the Braves score another point.



Above: Freshman Abby Peduzzi leaps for a jump serve against Lenoir-Rhyne University.

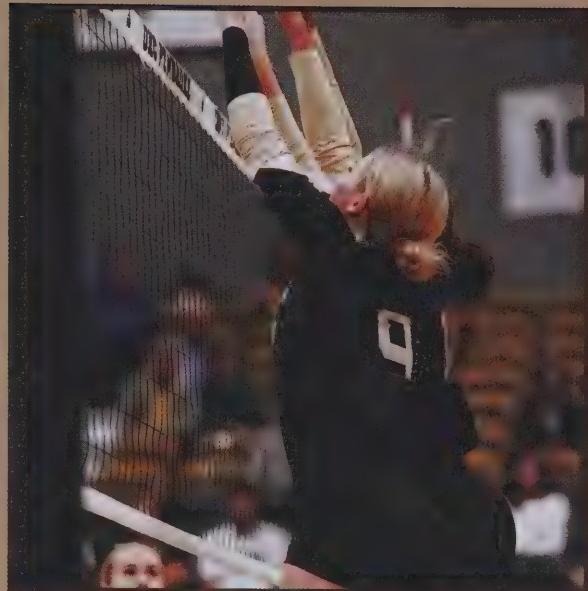
Right: Sophomore Ruby Countryman celebrates another point against Francis Marion.

ow: Katie Pressley and Katelynn Swain jump in unison to make a block against Augusta State.

GET BLOCKED!

Right: Vanja Przulj cross blocks during the Senior Day Match against Barton College.

Below: The team is all smiles as Vanja Przulj is awarded a custom-printed volleyball with her name and jersey number.



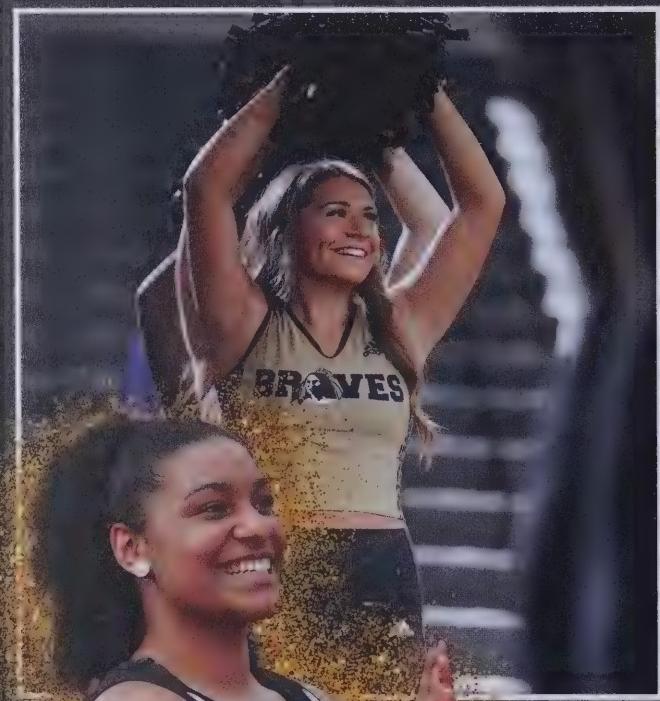
Spirit Squad



Macalah Roblyns



Filled with Christmas spirit, cheerleaders surround Officer Micky Hunt at the last basketball game before winter break.



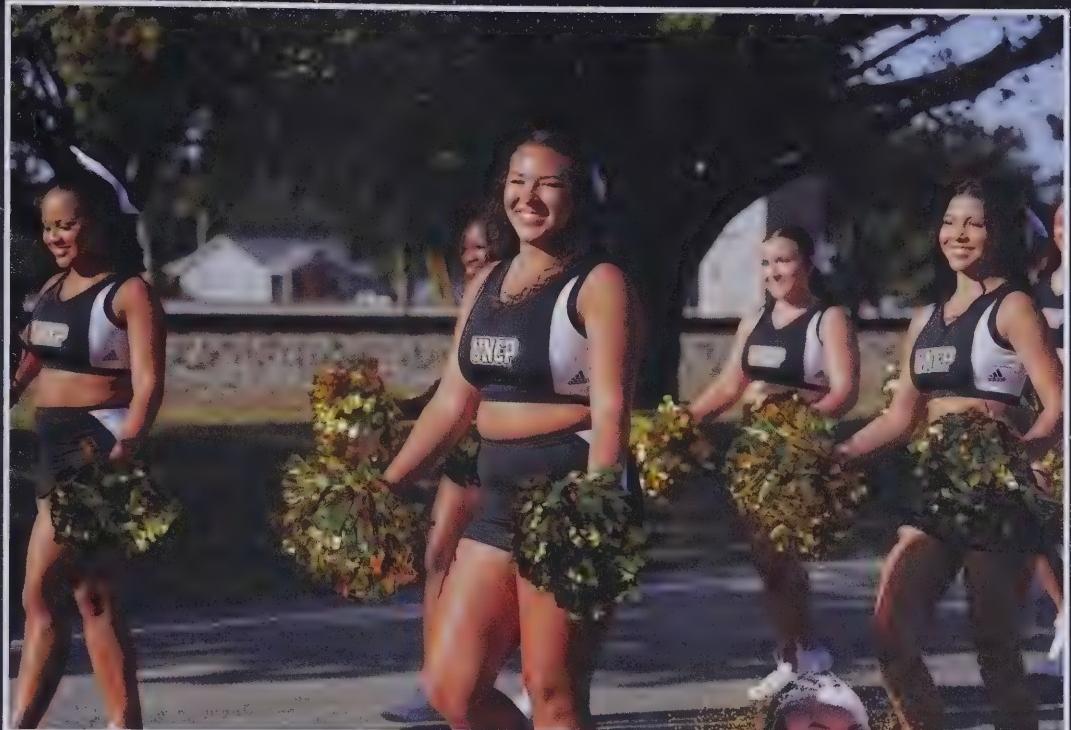
Above left: Dance team captain Madison Horne leads her squad in supporting the Braves offense.

Above: The cheerleaders show they have dance moves of their own.

Left: Cheerleader Aaliyah Ward keeps the crowd interested at a home football game.



Wren Gerber is head over heels for the Braves!



Left to right: Kyla Jarrett, Caroline Cummings, Olivia Sellers and Makaylee Emanuel walk the Homecoming parade.



The cheerleaders follow the marching band to the Grace P. Johnson Stadium before a football game.



Courtney Darden



Kyla Jarrett is lifted into the air during the football game against Wheeling University.



BraveHawk relishes his star status as the mascot for UNCP Athletics and enjoys entertaining the fans at home events. The true identity of the student in the costume is a closely guarded secret.

Tyreke King

Tyreke King is a second-degree student from Charlotte who graduated with a degree in exercise and sport science but returned to continue playing football while he still had eligibility. He's an aspiring chiropractor who was already accepted to Life University's chiropractic program when he crossed the stage at UNCP commencement in December of 2022. He said he's ready for the challenges ahead of him and feels his time here has prepared him for anything. Through the football program he was able to surround himself with good people to keep him focused and motivated to be the best person he can be. Tyreke is very family oriented and said that the football team is like one big family, with everyone looking out for each other. He said UNCP feels like home to him after five years because of the love and support he has from everybody on campus.

"If you need help you can reach out to anybody on campus and they are more than willing to help you," he said. He feels that UNCP has prepared him for a successful future after graduation because of the helpful professors and coaches who have guided him along the way.

Tyreke said he's excited about the way Pembroke has changed since he arrived. "It's a constant rate of growth. Every year is something new and improved." His advice to freshmen is, "Embrace it. Be the one to make change in the community."

continued on next page



"Be the one to make change in the community."

STUDENTS

PROFILE



Tyreke is passionate about music, and he's learning how to play the ukulele and other instruments. During his free time, he listens to music of all different genres and plays video games with his friends. Next up: making good on that acceptance to chiropractor school in Georgia.

--Profile by Nick Kolsin

###



CJ Davis

Christopher Davis, Jr., also known as C.J., is a student in the sport administration program in Fayetteville, who's here tackling football and school. He has one sister and three brothers and named his mom as his hero. C.J. said the people he met through football understand and support him as he tries to find a balance between sport and quality time with family and friends. He hopes to continue playing football professionally until he's ready to hang up the cleats and start coaching. What he'll miss the most about UNCP is the relationships he has made.

"I know once I leave UNCP, all the people that I've grown with and helped me grow—I won't see them probably ever again 'til once in a blue moon." One person who has made a big impact on his life is one of his closest friends, Ty Edwards, whom he met during his freshman year in North Hall. C.J. said the professors at UNCP make time outside of the classroom to help students with any issues they may have.

UNCP has changed him by helping him get out of his comfort zone, he said. He also noted, "The start of my football journey wasn't the best or the ideal beginning but now I am in a way better position. It has been a long journey, but hopefully everything will pay off in the end." The school has also changed in his time here, including the technology and architecture that he thinks could get the attention of new students. His advice to freshmen is to start strong in class, have fun and make friends.

During his free time, C.J. enjoys watching anime and playing video games. His immediate plan after graduation this time around is to go on a cruise or to a resort in the Dominican Republic.

--Profile by Kia Wynne

“It has been a long journey, but hopefully everything will pay off in the end.”

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WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN YEARBOOK?



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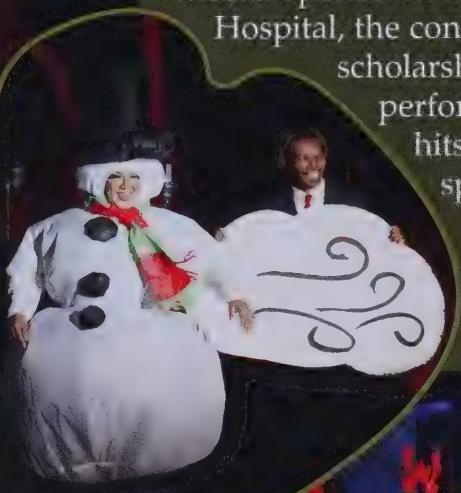


The Givens Performing Arts Center hosted the Holiday Extravaganza that showcases the talents of many students in the Department of Music. Sponsored by Southeastern Veterinary Hospital, the concert is a benefit for music scholarships. Student ensembles performed many classic holiday hits, bringing the seasonal spirit to life on campus.

Left: Ashley Arriaga added a comedic touch dressed as a friendly snowman!



Above: As winter break came trotting around, so did a couple of miniature horses! Lola and Taz from Stampede of Love were brought to help students de-stress as they finished their final exams!



Right: Freshman Yena Ma gets a little too INTO the holiday spirit at the campus tree.



Lighting of Old Main

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and as carols warmed our hearts and cups of hot chocolate warmed our hands, the community gathered to watch the lighting of Old Main. Dr. Rebekah Revels Lowry introduced the program, and guest dignitaries spoke about the importance of the tradition and the town-and-gown relationship. As Old Main beamed with lights, children and college students waited their turn to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Old Main continued to shine throughout the remainder of the holiday season, though most of the college students headed home to celebrate with their families.

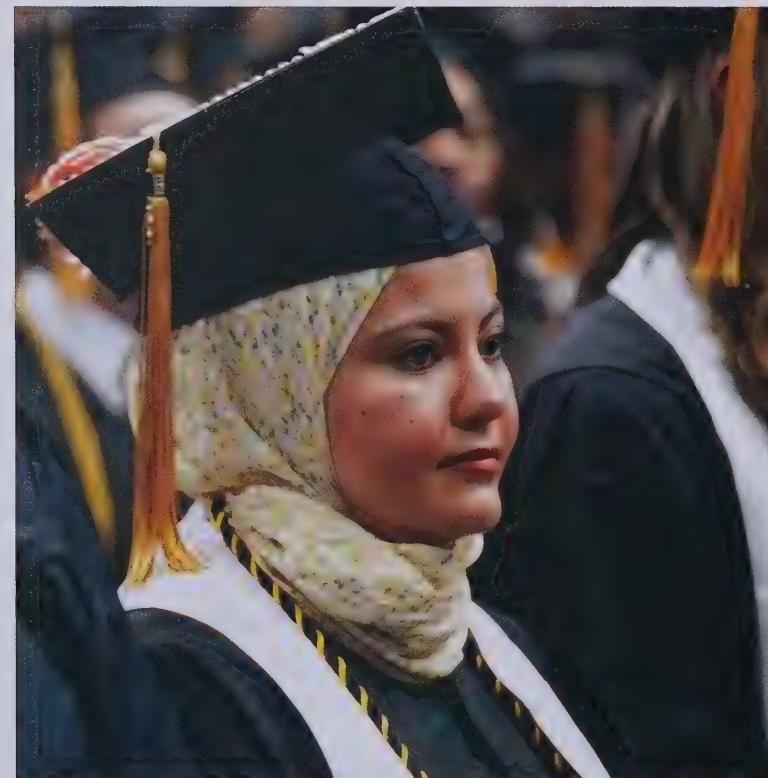


To: Santa

From:
BraveHawk

I would like
some more
wins, good
grades, and
hot cocoa!
(please)

*Left: Kristen McVicker,
Hannah Scrattish, Macy
Freeman, Alyssa Branci,
and Madison Humber
huddle close as they wait
for the festivities to begin.*



Paula Cummings is all smiles as she prepares to hear her name called for the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. She's the special events coordinator at GCU.

Raghad Mustafa listens to the speeches while waiting for conferral of the Bachelor of Science in Biology.



SGA President tells grads: UNCP is not just stamped on your diploma

As the calendar year was coming to a close, it was time for BraveNation to bid farewell to the final Class of 2023. The undergraduate ceremony took place Dec. 9 in the Jones Center. Before the university conferred 597 bachelor's degrees, SGA President Aspen Andersson assured her peers, "This is not goodbye."

"UNCP is not only stamped on your diploma," she said. "It will live in your mind and your heart and through the work you will accomplish over the course of your life."

Commencement speaker Dr. Jerry McGee, a former president of Wingate University, urged the graduates to "dream big dreams." He suggested, "Travel, write, sing, dance and celebrate as you lead happy and meaningful lives. Surround yourself with interesting and positive people who will be supportive and encouraging of your dreams."

Dr. Jonathan Drahos announced the names.

Forty-three students graduated with honors, according to the commencement program. Those who served in the U.S. military, or plan to serve, were identified by their red, white and blue honor cords. Student-athletes wear white and silver stoles. No matter their decoration, all of the graduates were welcomed into the ranks of UNCP alumni by Kendall Oxendine ('03), an Alumni Association board member. He talked about staying involved with the university through attendance at Braves sporting events, attendance at theater and music performances in our campus entertainment spaces, service projects, and returning for Homecoming.

Chancellor Dr. Robin Gary Cummings, in his concluding remarks, discussed what is meant by the pursuit of happiness. He asked the graduates to use their education to "make a difference," not merely to "make a living." He led the audience in a final "1-2-3 Go Braves!" before leading the students in a show of appreciation for their family and friends.



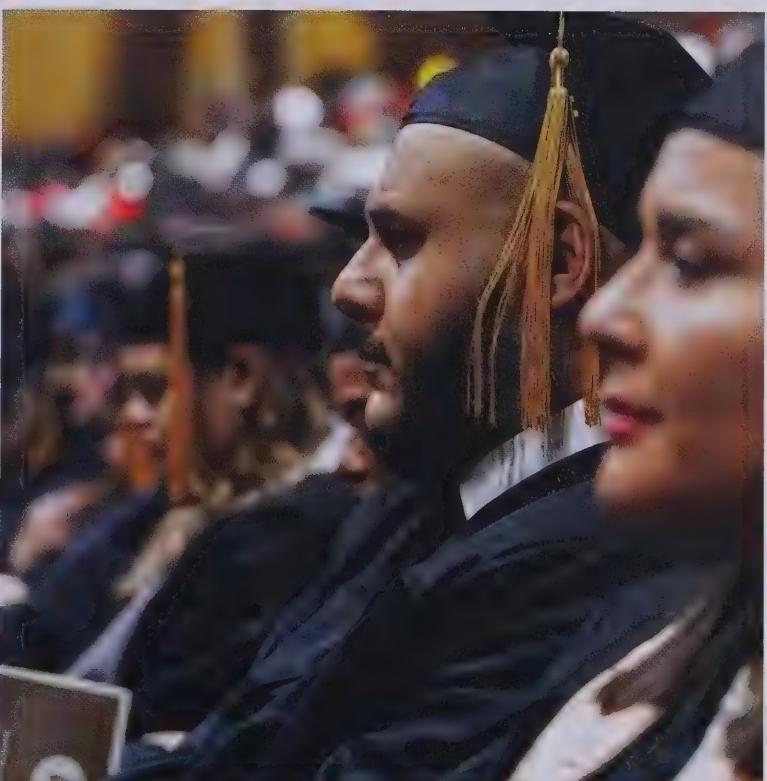
Speaker urges grads to be 'creatively courageous and courageously creative'

The Graduate School Commencement ceremony was held on a Friday night in the Givens Performing Arts Center for 386 master's degree recipients. Chancellor Dr. Robin Gary Cummings reminded the graduates, "This is your night."

The grand marshal and commencement speaker was Dr. Jane Haladay of the Department of American Indian Studies. This year she received the 2023 Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence but said she was honored to address the graduates. She urged them to be both "creatively courageous and courageously creative." She noted that these current times of turmoil in the world require our collective collaboration. "The bringing together of all of our special skills, talents and knowledge will be crucial to sustaining the places and the people we love," Haladay said.

Dr. Irene Aiken, Dean of the Graduate School, performed the "hooding" of the graduates to signify the master's degree, and, after they were all seated again, in unison they turned their tassels!



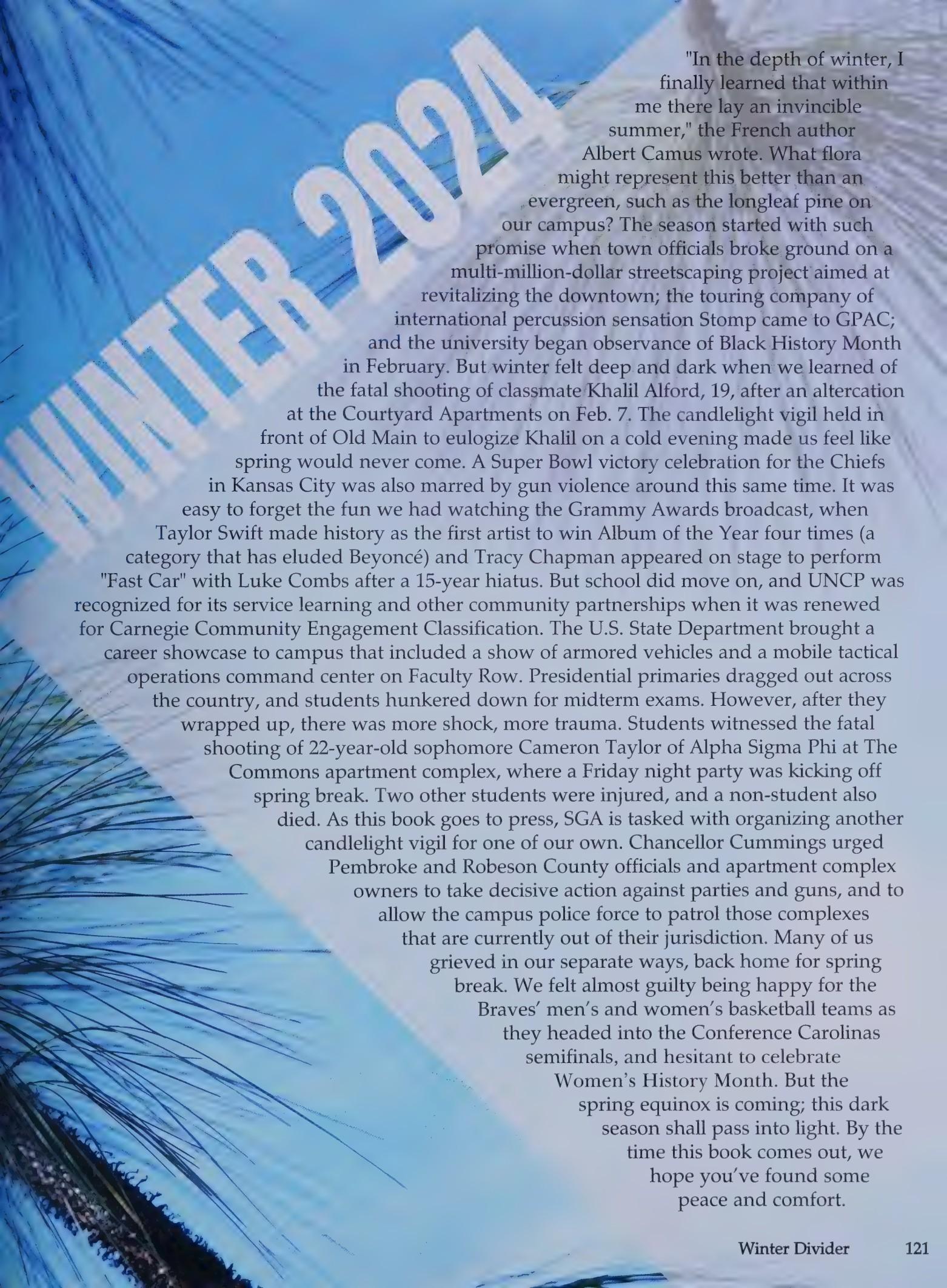


Seven types of master's degrees were awarded on Dec. 8, although most of them (259) were the master of business administration conferred in the newly named Thomas College of Business and Economics.



Just like the alma mater states it,
here on campus, Carolina's lofty
pine trees pierce the southern blue.
The species on the Quad include this
longleaf pine, which earns its name
by having the longest needles of any
eastern pine species.

Photo credit: Shirsendu Mondal



"In the depth of winter, I

finally learned that within

me there lay an invincible

summer," the French author

Albert Camus wrote. What flora

might represent this better than an

evergreen, such as the longleaf pine on

our campus? The season started with such

promise when town officials broke ground on a

multi-million-dollar streetscaping project aimed at

revitalizing the downtown; the touring company of

international percussion sensation Stomp came to GPAC;

and the university began observance of Black History Month

in February. But winter felt deep and dark when we learned of

the fatal shooting of classmate Khalil Alford, 19, after an altercation

at the Courtyard Apartments on Feb. 7. The candlelight vigil held in

front of Old Main to eulogize Khalil on a cold evening made us feel like

spring would never come. A Super Bowl victory celebration for the Chiefs

in Kansas City was also marred by gun violence around this same time. It was

easy to forget the fun we had watching the Grammy Awards broadcast, when

Taylor Swift made history as the first artist to win Album of the Year four times (a

category that has eluded Beyoncé) and Tracy Chapman appeared on stage to perform

"Fast Car" with Luke Combs after a 15-year hiatus. But school did move on, and UNCP was

recognized for its service learning and other community partnerships when it was renewed

for Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. The U.S. State Department brought a

career showcase to campus that included a show of armored vehicles and a mobile tactical

operations command center on Faculty Row. Presidential primaries dragged out across

the country, and students hunkered down for midterm exams. However, after they

wrapped up, there was more shock, more trauma. Students witnessed the fatal

shooting of 22-year-old sophomore Cameron Taylor of Alpha Sigma Phi at The

Commons apartment complex, where a Friday night party was kicking off

spring break. Two other students were injured, and a non-student also

died. As this book goes to press, SGA is tasked with organizing another

candlelight vigil for one of our own. Chancellor Cummings urged

Pembroke and Robeson County officials and apartment complex

owners to take decisive action against parties and guns, and to

allow the campus police force to patrol those complexes

that are currently out of their jurisdiction. Many of us

grieved in our separate ways, back home for spring

break. We felt almost guilty being happy for the

Braves' men's and women's basketball teams as

they headed into the Conference Carolinas

semifinals, and hesitant to celebrate

Women's History Month. But the

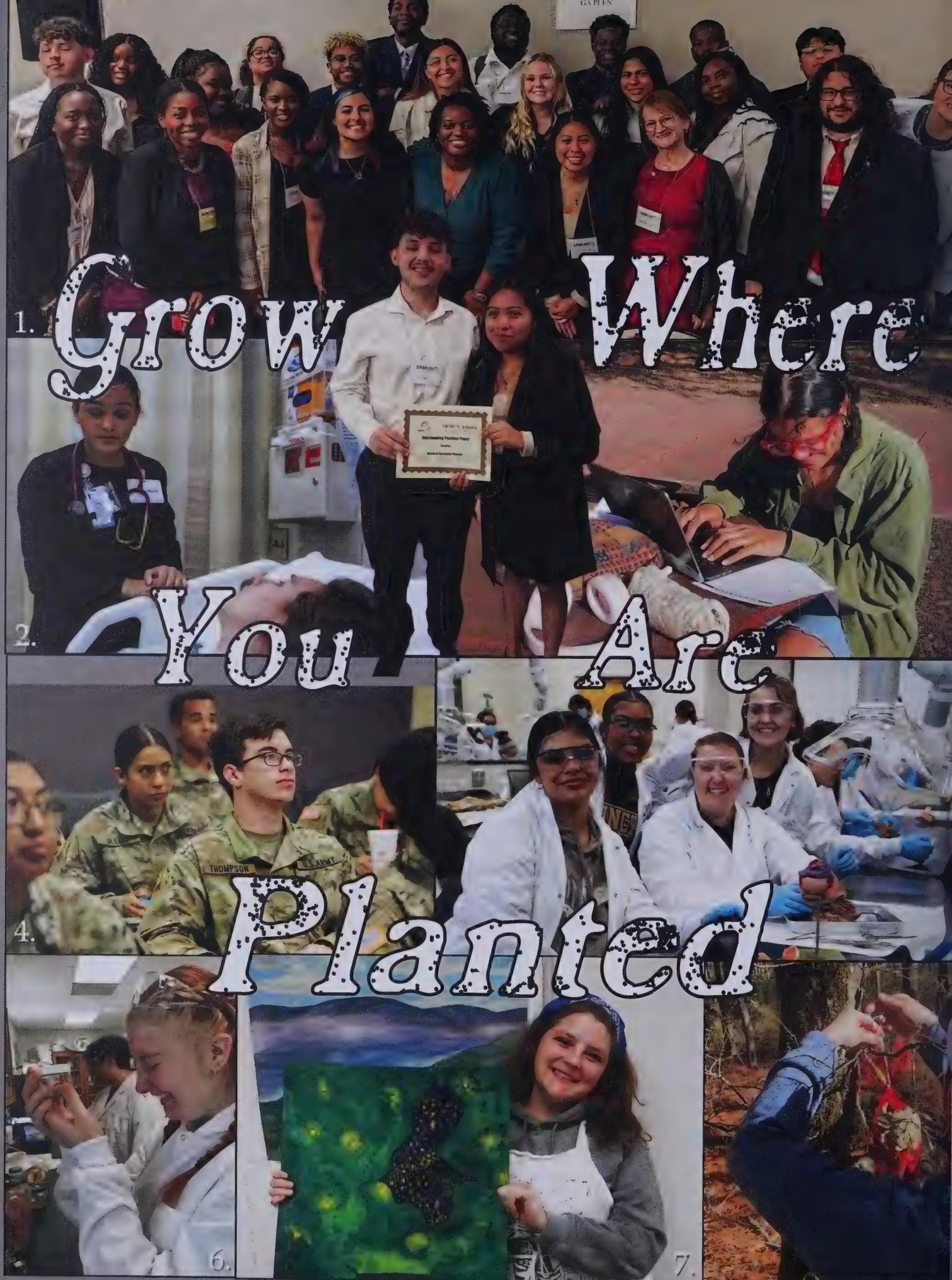
spring equinox is coming; this dark

season shall pass into light. By the

time this book comes out, we

hope you've found some

peace and comfort.



Our headline "Grow where you are planted" is derived from the saying "Bloom where you are planted," which encourages you to thrive on your talents or opportunities no matter the location or circumstances. UNCP is a small regional university, but, as the saying goes, "You can get there from here." There are excellent opportunities for personal growth despite some obvious limitations to a small public school in a rural area, and here you can be a big fish in a small pond at an affordable rate. (1) Our students win awards in regional competitions such as Model United Nations in Atlanta, Georgia. Acting as delegates, they write papers and resolutions and make speeches in simulations representing countries around the world. In the fall, Ethan Deese and Magally Ortiz-Rojas earned an award for their outstanding position paper. (2) A nursing shift simulation gives that department's majors a taste of the workload. (3) Sometimes you just need the right environment to work in, and Harmony Somerville finds that outside Moore Hall. (4) ROTC students take courses in military science. (5) Meanwhile, dissection in biology classes is not for the faint of heart! (6) Other science majors are found analyzing specimens. Elizabeth West, an art major, poses with her painting titled "The Garden of Gethsemane" (7). Jacob Elliott learns in his ecology lab how to tie a leaf decomposition bag while on a field trip to Sampson's Landing (8).



graduate and undergraduate students attend the North Carolina Council for the Social Studies Conference Greensboro. Left to right: Abigail Blackmon, Caroline Whitley, Anthony Dial, Chace Council, Leena Adams, Mike Morman and Austin Spinosa.



Studio art students Hannah Scrattish (right) and Ray Eddy practice making face molds.

Change of Seasons

*We are the rain that falls
for no reason at all.
Even this change of seasons
won't give me a reason.
Like the weather
and clouds that move together
above those lofty pines,
we seek to fill our minds
with knowledge and truth
as we bid farewell to our youth.
The time is come
to branch away,
growing and learning
every day.*

Poem by Macy Freeman



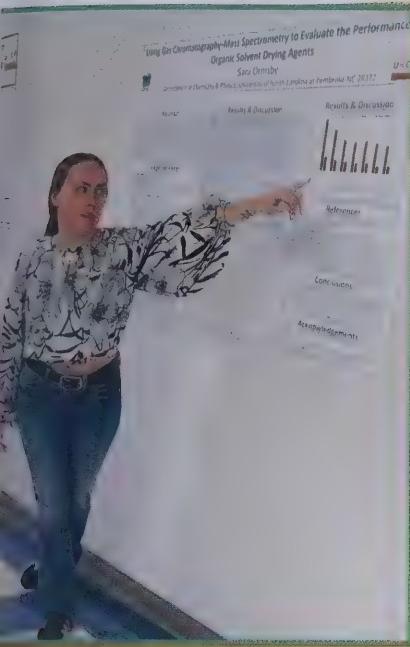
GROW beyond THE classroom

English professor Dr. Richard Vela brings students every year on an overnight trip to the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia, for a weekend of some of the bard's best work. In November 2023 they got tickets to see "Hamlet" and "Much Ado About Nothing." Pictured left to right: Alexia Midget, Clavaria Jeffreys, William Friend, Eros Howard, Dr. Richard Vela, and Evan Mercer.



Michael Thomas (center, on tuba) performs with the UNCP Concert Band on Oct. 10 in the Given Performing Arts Center, conducted by music professor Dr. Tim Altman. Guest conductor Marvin Rorie, Jr.





Sara Ormsby presents her research from Dr. Flowers' section of CHM 4270 Instrumental Analysis in a poster session staged by the class in a hallway in Oxendine Science Building.

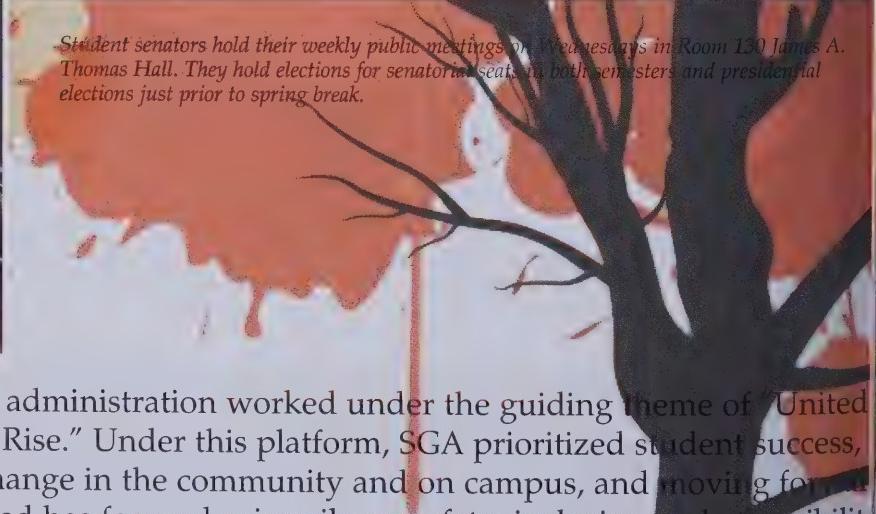


The Department of Social Work collaborated with student actors from the theatre program to act out a case worker's visit and mediation in the department's simulation lab (above). As one social work major gets experience, the other students are able to watch on closed-circuit television from the nearby classroom (left).



History professor Dr. Christopher Woolley took students on a study trip for spring break, March 2-9. Some were enrolled in his course, HST 3870 Modern Mexico, and some were enrolled in WLS 3990 Study Abroad. Pictured left to right: Brenda Avellaneda-Gonzalez, Brenda Chavez Soriano, Aspen Andersson, Salvador Lopez, Jacob Talbert, Jesicove Jean, Josie Ulloa peeking out the back, Dr. Woolley, Stephany Guzman, Jacob Butler. Not pictured: Dr. Josiah Marineau of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



Student senators hold their weekly public meetings on Wednesdays in Room 130 James A. Thomas Hall. They hold elections for senatorial seats in both semesters and presidential elections just prior to spring break.

This year the Andersson & Ortiz-Rojas administration worked under the guiding theme of "United We S.O.A.R.: Succeed, Own It, Affect, and Rise." Under this platform, SGA prioritized student success, authenticity and accountability, positive change in the community and on campus, and moving forward together. As such, the legislation they passed has focused primarily on safety, inclusion and accessibility. SGA also hosted a number of events to help students find a sense of belonging on campus and to learn more about the impact of servant leadership. In the early spring semester, they were horrified and saddened to find themselves organizing candlelight vigils in honor of two students killed in gun violence.

"I want to protect education and educational spaces."

SGA President Aspen Andersson was born in Fayetteville, the oldest of four girls, and lived her first few years in Hope Mills before her family settled in Clayton. Aspen's father is UNCP's head soccer coach, Lars Andersson. Attending UNCP was not the original plan for Aspen mainly because of that connection and practically growing up on campus.

"I was born the first year that he started working at UNCP, and so I heard about it my whole life," she said. In search of new experiences and freedom, Aspen knew she wanted to stay in-state and thought other schools were better fits for her. Her wake-up call came one afternoon when she sat down to look at the numbers.

"I sat down with a notebook and a calculator, wrote four columns, I looked at the math, and I just knew I couldn't afford it," she said. "I couldn't even imagine having that much money in my bank account." Luckily for her, and out of respect for her father, she had already applied to UNCP. After getting an official tour, all those memories of her childhood replayed in her mind and she saw a future version of herself at the school. "I found myself walking around and falling in love with the campus for my own reasons instead of my dad's."

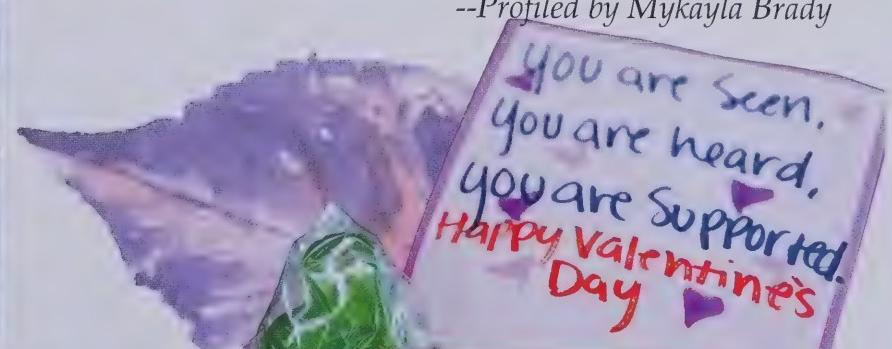
Coming from a long line of educators, her plan was to become a teacher, but she soon found she didn't have the patience. Looking at things from a different perspective, Aspen said, "I realized that the system was so messed up, and that I could do so much more for the school system through law. Even if I can't be in the classroom as a teacher, I want to protect education and educational spaces."

Aspen has made a significant impact on campus. The political science major has been a resident adviser for three years, a delegate in Model United Nations and a sister in Alpha Pi Omega. Aspen said the community she's found here and the people she has crossed paths with have been the most amazing part of her UNCP journey, contributing to her growth and change.

"When you come here, it's like one big melting pot. Every person leaves a little imprint on you, and you just carry that forever." The aspiring attorney said, "Meeting all these different people has made me realize how awesome the work is and how much I want to work to protect that and protect spaces like UNCP." Aspen intends to enter the workforce while preparing for the LSAT.



--Profiled by Mykayla Brady



Going



Home

Below: SGA President Aspen Andersson makes welcoming remarks and offers her condolences to the friends and family.

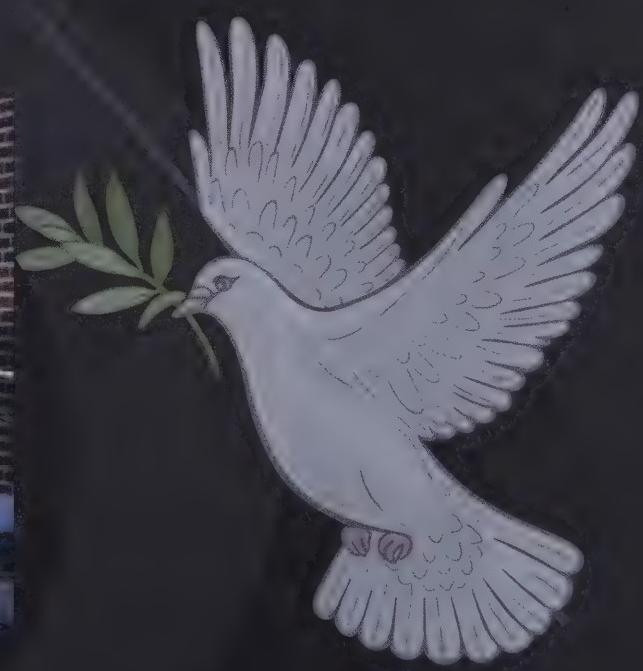


Jacqueline Davis, or "Aunt Jack" (top) and Desmond Davis (above) share fond memories of Khalil Alford.

Family, friends, classmates and peers gathered in front of Old Main Feb. 14 for a candlelight memorial organized by SGA to pay their respects and reflect on the life of the late Khalil Alford. Khalil had taken the semester off but was killed Feb. 7 in gun violence that started in an altercation at Courtyard Apartments. A week later a nonstudent suspect was arrested. Then, within weeks, and as this book goes to press, SGA found themselves shocked to be organizing another service. This was for Cameron Taylor, 22, killed in a shooting at The Commons apartment complex, where a large party was occurring on the eve of spring break. Two other students were also shot, and a non-student was killed. In the aftermath, UNCP and the commercial apartment complexes agreed to a zero-tolerance policy for unauthorized gatherings, and the Town of Pembroke agreed to give campus police jurisdiction to patrol those complexes and respond to calls there.



The student organization known as the Redemption Choir sing two selections, "Amen" and "We Speak Jesus," as a way to offer comfort to the family and friends who were affected.



GROW in FAITH



UNCP takes pride in their diversity of students in attendance, which also means their faith-based student organizations that are open for any student to join. These groups include the Muslim Student Association, Redemption Choir, Cru and the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, all shown on these pages.



Nura Abudaya (left) and Asil Abudayeh bring awareness of the Muslim Student Association while at the Involvement Fair in January.
Below: Students celebrate Eid al-Fitr (the end of Ramadan) on April 17, 2023, in the Student Center.





Jackline Kosgei and Mariah Spencer enjoy the Iftar at the end of Ramadan, sponsored by the Muslim Student Association.



Above: Cru holds weekly Bible study on Thursday afternoons and travels on an annual mission trip during spring break.

Left: Redemption Choir performs gospel music in Moore Hall, with rehearsals Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Left to right: Jessica Obi, Avery Walker and Aaliyah Pamplin represent InterVarsity Christian Fellowship during the Involvement Fair in the Student Center in January. In August they hosted a Murder Mystery Night (below).

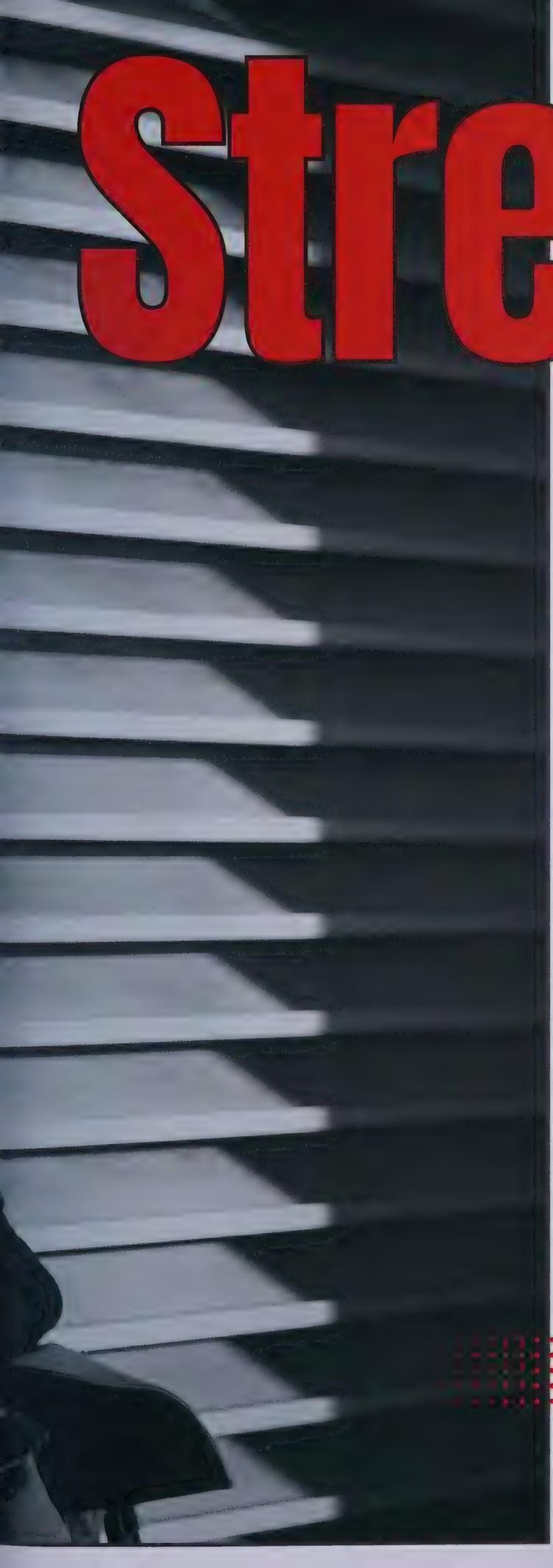


¶ For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven. ¶



Nick 'Mason' Milutinovic (left)
and Quentin Bergenholz
Photo credit: Shirsendu Mondal

Street Fashion



Fashion is a means of self-expression that allows people to try on many roles in life. At times it's almost like storytelling through clothing. Street style is like a virtual catalog of ordinary people's clothing, as opposed to the designers and the big studio brands. According to fashion photographer Bill Cunningham, the best fashion show is the one you see coming to life on the streets every day. These days you might follow a social media "influencer," a celebrity, or a fashion blogger, but street style ultimately ends up being what suits your identity, what you think is appropriate in a setting, and what you can afford! Around campus some students use their culture to tell where they came from and who they are. In the following pages we show you some looks spotted on campus by our yearbook staff photographers.



Nick Milutinovic IN PROFILE

Nick Milutinovic, whose friends call him Mason, is a senior majoring in marketing. He's most recently from Serbia, but he was born in Chile and later lived in Jamaica and on the island of Trinidad until about 6 years old. As an international student, he can only work on campus, so he has held jobs as a lifeguard, library assistant, tutor and food service worker. As a theatre minor, he works on theater productions and most recently played the part of Svetsunov, the police chief, in "The Government Inspector" (see p. 140).

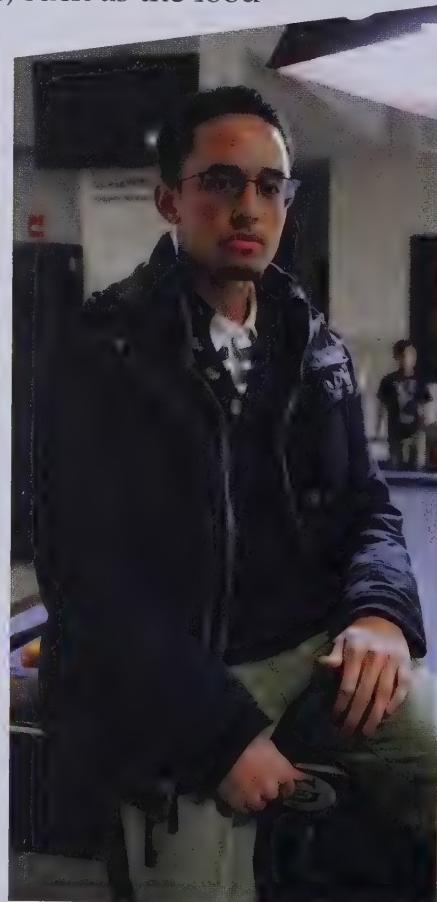
Nick has a pretty busy schedule, but in his free time he likes to exercise (mostly swimming) and play the guitar. Last year he performed with the UNCP jazz band. He's also in the History Club and the Accounting Student Association.

"UNCP has been my first experience in the U.S.," Nick said. "I think this place is great, and it really shaped my perspective of what America is really about. One of the most noticeable differences for me was the fact that one *cannot* survive in the states without a car or some kind of vehicle." Fortunately, "living on campus is quite straight-forward, as everything is a five-minute walk away." He said the people he has met here aren't at all different from his friends in Serbia or Germany in terms of values, common sense, general knowledge and demeanor.

Nick's advice to freshmen? "Just relax and don't be afraid to ask questions. There's a lot of resources that I encourage y'all to use, such as the food pantry, computer labs and library study rooms. I really believe that one can achieve a lot, even on this relatively small campus."



Essence Hairston (above),
Benjamin Rodgers, Camille McDougald





Top: Chaneta Dover
Middle: Khalil Clark and Bryson Smalls
Bottom: Daleesa Wickham
Left: Kenzie Thompson and Ryan Miller

PENMBROKE LOOKBOOK

WE DO IT OUR WAY.
PEMBROKE-STYLE.
CHECK OUT THESE
WINTER LOOKS THAT
WE CAPTURED ON
CAMPUS, AND TAKE
INSPIRATION FROM
THIS 'CATALOG
OF THE STREETS.'





Fashion Without Season



Sharonda Wyche



Seth Rogers



Gloriest Lubamba



Donovan Fant



Mykayla Brady

Is it a sled, or is it a hat? It depends where you live!

In the North, a toboggan is a long, light, flat-bottomed sled made of thin boards that curve upward and back toward its riders. Some toboggans are made with low handrails. The term toboggan is derived from the Mi'kmaq word *tepaqan* or the Abenaki word *dabôgan*. The Inuit, indigenous people of the Arctic, made the first toboggans out of whalebone and used them to transport people and belongings across the snow.

In the South, where snow is scarce, the term toboggan refers to a wool knit hat covering the head and ears. The inspiration came from French Canadians, who wore warm woolen caps while riding... you guessed it: toboggans.

Then again, some people call them beanies! And this headwear is on trend as a way to offset outfits for both young adults and fashion models. For many models and social media influencers these days, piecing together a fall or winter outfit that doesn't include a toboggan isn't complete. At New York's Fashion Week, a neatly knitted toboggan with white and lavender accents was a must-have accessory.

So one reason to wear a beanie/boggan is to set yourself apart. With a bold 'boggan color accenting the rest of the attire, the attention will surely be in your favor. Wear it pulled down over your ears for warmth. Or wear a long one that can hang loose and slouchy in the back for a laid-back style. Some wear a beanie perpetually, as a kind of "security blanket," winter or summer. Whatever you decide, wear it like a pro!

--Story by Sharonda Wyche



Did you know Crocs were named among “The 50 Worst Inventions” by Time magazine in 2010?

The brand was in the middle of a downhill slide at the time, leading the company to the brink of bankruptcy. These days they are a top-selling shoe, with endorsements by major celebrities. From their humble beginnings, introduced in Fort Lauderdale in 2002 as a practical shoe for boaters, and later for nurses, Crocs reached peak popularity after a collaboration with Post Malone in 2018. The main people who buy Crocs today are men and women under the age of 25.

“People mainly use Crocs to bum around so they don’t have to put on their real shoes,” said junior Camille McDougald. Yet the fashion house Balenciaga brought Crocs to a whole other level by showing Crocs with platforms at Paris Fashion Week in 2016, which sold out immediately when they were released.

The classic clog retails for about \$50, or with your favorite sports team logo about \$60, and the platforms go for \$65. Some Croc styles have a slip-resistant tread for all kinds of workplaces, but without that, and after you’ve worn them forever, Crocs can be slippery when wet.

“Crocs can be comfortable and were very popular with my generation, but they can cause me to slip on the campus sidewalks whenever it rains,” said junior India Godwin.

Still, there’s all kinds of snaps, clips and buttons to personalize your Crocs. A pack of five “Jibbitz” sells for about \$20. Collabs with the likes of Saweetie, SZA, Justin Bieber and Luke Combs, and annual revenue of about \$3.6 billion, are sure signs this trend will still be around for a while.

The Government Inspector



alumnus Mac McGill (center)



Chelsea Marie (l) and Kayla Larraga Ruiz

Meet the Cast:

Hlestakov - Mac McGill

Osip - Marquis Croslan

Anna Andreyvna - Cameron Holder

Marya Antonova - Chelsea Marie

Grusha - Shandi Tilson

The Mayor - Britney Chambers-Brown

Sign Girl - Madison Cain

Dobchinsky - Wynona Oxendine

Bobchinsky - Kayla Larraga Ruiz

Judge - Sterling Pratt

School Principal - Cheyenne Ward

Hospital Director - Joseph Holder

Postmaster - Kadarius Johnson

Doctor - Christian Coto

Inkeeper's Wife - Madison Cain

Waitress - Mya Bryant

Svetsunov - Nick Milutinovic

Abdullin - James Frazier

Pentelaeyev - Shandi Tilson

Chernaeayev - Shandi Tilson

Locksmith's Wife - Madison Cain

Imperial Messenger - James Fraizer

CAMERON HOLDER

Junior

Cameron Holder (**right**) is a junior who has become an accomplished supporting player for University Theatre. From a bit part in "Strike at the Wind," to a front-and-center solo as Rizzo in "Grease," the drama of "Marcus" and the physical comedy of "The Government Inspector," this theatre major from Greensboro eats up every role. She's also active in the Student Government Association, most recently as treasurer, and is a former cheerleader on the Spirit Squad.



The cast had fun with this 2008 adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher of the 19th-Century Russian play by Nikolai Gogol.



Britney Chambers-Brown



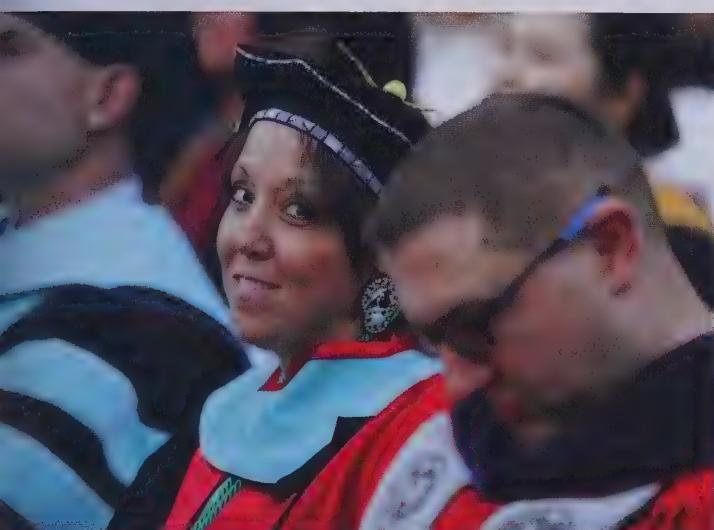
Above: Joseph Holder and
Cheyenne Ward
Right: Madison Cain

Director: Dr. Jonathan Drahos
Costume Design: Brandon Thompson
Choreography: Carolanne Marano
Set Design: David Underwood



Photos credit: Michael Litty





When growing up watching college basketball, you always imagine playing against your favorite team or a rival of your favorite team. Well, the Braves' men's basketball team got that kind of opportunity in exhibitions against University of Houston and Duke University before the season started. Those two matchups battle-tested the Braves, who ended up with the Conference Carolinas tournament crown in March. The women's basketball team also faced off against some tough teams out of conference, and got the opportunity to play in exhibition against Division I Coastal Carolina in December. Like the men, the women claimed the East Division title and the #1 seed going into the tournament in March, where they captured the crown for two years in a row. The Braves swimming team also had an amazing season --as a team and as individuals. They captured the team title at the Conference Carolinas championship meet and sent individual swimmers to national and international competitions. They also got to compete against a Division I program in UNC-Ashville, where the Braves won eight events. Two swimmers traveled to Qatar to race in the World Swimming Championships. They sent six swimmers to the NCAA Division II Championships in Geneva, Ohio. The wrestling team was runner-up at their conference championship tournament, and as this book goes to press, they'd sent six to Park City, Kansas, for the NCAA national championships.

The men's and women's indoor track and field teams both finished 2nd at the Conference Carolinas championships in February.





The team is honored during a timeout at the men's basketball game against Chowan on Feb. 28. They claimed the Conference Carolinas Championship team trophy over six other schools, with a team score of 776 points.

Scoreboard

UNCP		OPP
216	Salem College	17
1st	King Invitational	9th
1st	King Invitational	9th
101	Wingate	160
205	Chowan	35
197	Barton	60
188.5	Roanoke	67.5
1st	WPU Pacer Invitational	12th
1st	WPU Pacer Invitational	12th
475.9	Lenoir-Rhyne	420.7
475.9	Milligan	472.2
89	Catawba	172
137	Wingate	124
123	UNC Asheville	139
207	King	43
1st	Conference Championships	7th
2nd	Conference Championships	7th
1st	Conference Championships	7th
1st	Conference Championships	7th



Britta Schwengle celebrates after winning an event during a tri-meet at home on Nov. 11.



Katie Raleigh gets set to swim the backstroke during a meet against King University on Senior Day.

Making waves and turning heads

The swimming team capped off a remarkable (and long) regular season with a record of 8-3 when it came to single team meets, and they accomplished seven out of eight first-place finishes when it came to invitationals and multiple-team meets. They kicked off the season with a commanding 216-17 win over Salem College on Sept. 23 and then placed first in the King Invitational in Bristol the following weekend.

They split in their first tri-meet of the season, which was at home in the newly dedicated Sue Walsh Swimming Pool on Oct. 21. They took the loss from Wingate and a win over Chowan. In the second home tri-meet Nov. 11, they picked up big wins over Barton and Roanoke, neither of whom broke 68 points. After placing first in the WPU Pacer Invitational in Cary, they swept in a tri-meet at Lenoir-Rhyne and split at Catawba, falling to the host but taking revenge on Wingate.

They got the opportunity to swim against Division I UNC-Ashville, taking the loss but not by much, before finishing off the regular season with a Senior Day win over King on Feb. 3. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world in Qatar, the Braves' Britta Schwengle and Fátima Portillo competed in the Doha 2024 World

Aquatics Championships. Schwengle finished the open-water 10km race 54th out of 67 with a time of 2:13:36.9 and Portillo with a 2:21:11.7. Portillo also raced in the open-water 5km race, where she finished 45th out of 57 with a time of 1:04:47.7.

At the Conference Carolinas Championships, Feb. 21-23, the Braves took the lead by the end of Day One, before falling behind to Emmanuel University on Day Two. The Braves came roaring back and finished strong to take a 776-point win, beating the Lions by 49 points to claim the team title and multiple medals for individual swimmers. Schwengle beat the conference's championship record in the 1,650-yard freestyle, and Benedetta Pepe Pugliese beat a conference record in the 200-yard breaststroke. Pepe Pugliese was named Conference Carolinas Freshman of the Year, and Oscar Roverato was named Coach of the Year two years in a row!

The Braves had six swimmers who posted a combined 11 NCAA Provisional Standard B times and have qualified for the 2024 NCAA Championships in Geneva, Ohio, beginning on March 15: Pepe Pugliese, Ketlyn Rodriguez Matos, Schwengle, Mariel Mencia Martinez, Portillo and Sofia Pereira.



Conference Carolinas Freshman of the Year Benedetta Pepe Pugliese



Conference Carolinas Coach of the Year Oscar Roverato

Swimming

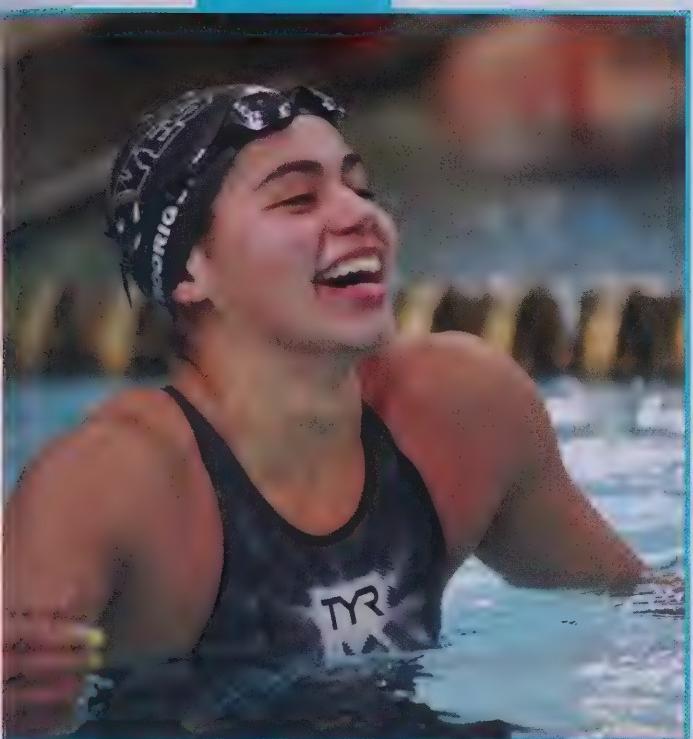


Above: Britta Schwengle catches her breath after an event in a tri-meet at home against Barton and Roanoke on Nov. 11.



Above: Freshman Tamra Tipton is known for backstroke and freestyle but can hold her own in the 100-yard and 200-yard butterfly.

Left: Freshman Gabby Hyson swims in the butterfly stage of her individual medley event in UNCP's Sue Walsh Swimming Pool.



“I always say, it’s not the place; it’s the people you surround yourself with.”



Ketlyn Rodriguez Matos (left) is a senior from Ponce, Puerto Rico. She said it's a beautiful place in the south of the island. She lived there for 16 years before moving to boarding school in Florida for her last two years of high school. She's co-captain of the swimming team and has worked as a lifeguard for the university pool. Ketlyn said being part of the team is an amazing experience and it's her reason for coming here. She met her best friend on the team and can't be more grateful for the opportunities it gave her.

The team practices 11 times a week, including weightlifting, but she still manages to have some free time with friends—her teammates, who are all like family to her. Ketylyn met Mariel Mencia Martinez at an international swimming meet when she was 12, and thanks to UNCP they've become like sisters. With Mariel, Natalia Sarmiento and Nathalia Silva (Class of '23), she's had her best memories both on and off the team.

Ketlyn is majoring in exercise and sport science and hopes to stay at UNCP to get the master's degree in sport administration. Has UNCP changed her?

"I feel like I have grown a lot as a person, and I feel like it's time to reach my other goals and to have new goals," Ketlyn said. She's happy to be a senior, but, "Of course I'm a little sad, too, because in this five years I met so many good people, and for some of them, I might never see them again."

Indeed, she said what she'll miss most about UNCP is the people. "I always say, it's not the place; it's the people you surround yourself with." Her advice to freshmen is to enjoy their time here because it goes very fast. "Don't waste any opportunities you get on the way. Also, everyone's times are different, so don't compare your process or success with others."

Women's Basketball



Back row: Jada Coleman, Malea Garrison, Maya Hood, Anazriah Rawls, Hannah Russell, Amanda Sacoto, Jykyia Bell, Zaria Clark
Front row: Tamie Morris, Alcenia Purnell, Kelci Adams, Kalaya Hall, Aniah McManus, Courtney Smith, Lillian Flantos, Anastasia Sinclair, Natalie Engle



Coming off a successful season last year, the women's program put together another successful run this season, on the path to claiming another Conference Carolinas Championship and a second straight NCAA Division II Tournament berth. The Braves wrapped up the regular season with a 21-7 overall record and a conference record of 15-3. The Braves started the season with tough teams. They completed the Conference Challenge in Hartsville, South Carolina, Nov. 11-12 with a win over Coker University and a loss to Wingate.

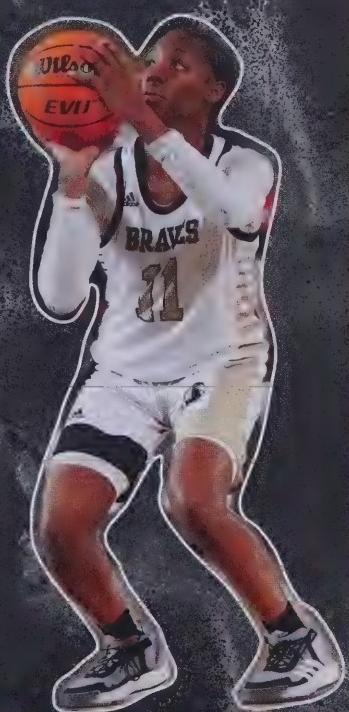
They shook off a loss to Fayetteville State with a home-opener win over St. Augustine and then picked up a hard-fought win over Newberry and an overtime thriller win against Winston-Salem State. The team got a taste of Division I basketball when they traveled to Conway, South Carolina, for an exhibition with Coastal Carolina. They battled evenly in the first half before Coastal Carolina pulled out all the stops.

The day after their lopsided win over Barton College, head coach John Haskins announced his retirement would come at the end of the season (see story next page.) The Braves went on an eight-game winning streak after their Jan. 24 loss to Francis Marion on the road. At Mount Olive University, Kelci Adams tied a school record with the most three pointers in a game (7).

During that winning streak, the Braves picked up an impactful win over Francis Marion the second time around, on Senior Night, which also helped them regain control of the East Division. They ended the regular season with a decisive win over Chowan at home, where they claimed the East Division title and the regular season title when Francis Marion beat Belmont Abbey that same night.

As this book goes to press, the Braves just won the Conference Carolinas Championship for the second straight year and are set to face Catawba College, the #1 seed in the Southeast Region of the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Kalaya Hall was named tournament MVP and set a new school record for number of free throws made in a single season (184). Kelci Adams set a new school record for number of three-pointers made in a season (73). Courtney Smith joined them in the records book by hitting (and surpassing) 1,000-career points.



UNCP	OPP
74	Coker
63	Wingate
67	Fayetteville State
61	St. Augustine's
64	Limestone
51	Lenoir-Rhyne
62	Newberry
68	Southern Wesleyan
63	Winston-Salem State
49	Coastal Carolina
56	King
78	Young Harris
61	Catawba
75	Converse
75	Chowan
36	Belmont Abbey
76	Barton
62	Lees-McRae
57	Francis Marion
64	North Greenville
72	Mount Olive
58	Emmanuel
67	Elizabeth City State
61	Erskine
60	Barton
54	Francis Marion
77	Mount Olive
65	Converse
69	Chowan
63	Barton
72	Belmont Abbey



End of an era, for real



Coach John Haskins was named Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year in men's basketball at the end of his final season as head coach of the Braves in 1992. Now he's been named Coach of the Year by Conference Carolinas at the close of his final season with the women's team. On

Jan. 18 Haskins announced his retirement from UNCP after 35 years. It's been a long ride.

He was hired as an assistant men's basketball coach in 1989. He took over as head coach in 1992 and was integral to the school's transition from NAIA to NCAA

Division II. Haskins also coached men's golf from 2002-05. He took over the women's basketball team in 2004, and in the last three seasons alone they've compiled 19 or more wins in regular season play. They're now back-to-back Conference Carolinas tournament champions. Haskins says his retirement will be a bittersweet moment.

"I am really going to miss the young ladies and having a team to coach," he said. "I will cherish the memories and the relationships I have made here during the course of my career."

Athletics Director Dick Christy said Haskins' legacy is one of selflessness and loyalty. Haskins has a servant-leader style, and last year his colleagues in Athletics voted him the Dan Kenney Coach of the Year (an award named after the retired athletic director). He was an assistant coach at UNCW and Gardner-Webb before moving to Pembroke State.



KALAYA HALL Senior

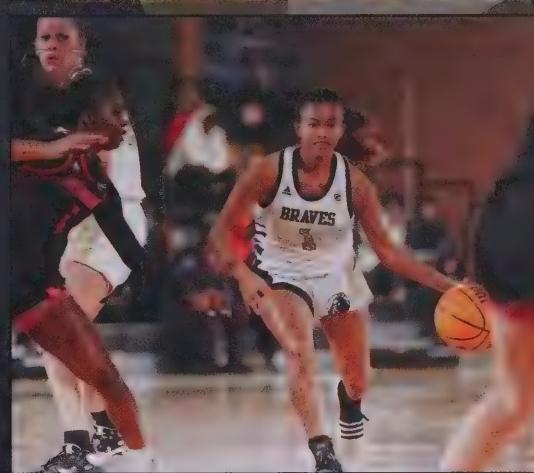
Kalaya Hall (right, with Coach Bohannon, Coach Haskins and her 1,000-points ball) is from a small town in North Carolina named Beulaville, which is not too different from Pembroke. By the time she was a teen, her family moved to the Durham area. Now she stays on campus and said it has positively affected her experience at UNCP, because it's more convenient and easier to attend events, which helps her feel more connected.

Kalaya plays guard on the women's basketball team and said that, too, allowed her "to connect with many different people and be more involved in the community." She wants to remain involved in sports after her playing days are over. She's majoring in exercise and sport science, on the recreation and sport administration track.

"I love the broad and diverse aspect of my major," she said. "There's many different avenues I can take, which gives me a lot of options to choose a career path." She says it feels great to be a senior, but she'd like to return as a grad assistant for the team.

When not in classes, practice, or at work in the Livermore Library, Kalaya enjoys catching up on TV shows, books, church, and cheering on other UNCP teams at their games. Her advice for freshmen is to stay focused. "Find out what you want to do, and make goals for that. Find your group of people that make a positive impact on you in whatever you do. Don't worry about what anyone else does; stay focused and mind your business."

As a transfer student from Queens University, this record-breaking phenom has only been here two years but said that UNCP has helped her grow and find a sense of identity. She'll miss her teammates and coaches but also mentioned Andrea Branch-Jacobs and Morgan Sheehan in the Division of Athletics.



Men's Basketball



Back Row, left to right: Hayden Smith, Amare Miller, Elijah Cobb, Josh Berenbaum, Amadou Faye, Jeremyah McWilliams, Steven Lassiter, Peyton Mann and Cortez Marion-Holmes

Front Row: Will Gray, Zy McLean, Nygell Verdier, Bradlee Haskell, Jamarvious Jones, Javonte Waverly, Dallas Gardiner, JaJuan Carr and Tyreik McCallum



Left: Nygell Verdier gets 2 assists and 7 rebounds in a game against FMU.

Right: Bradlee Haskell is on his way to scoring 20 points in the loss to Chowan on Feb. 24.



Left: Elijah Cobb plays 24 minutes for 11 points in the win against Francis Marion



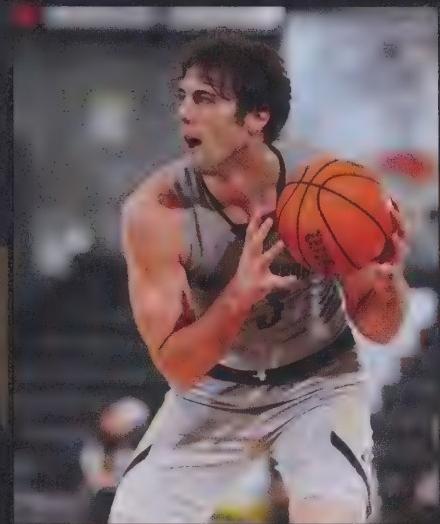
Never too late to dominate

The Braves jump-started their schedule with preseason exhibition games on the road against nationally ranked Division I powerhouse programs: the University of Houston Cougars, coached by Pembroke alumnus Kelvin Sampson, and the Duke Blue Devils in the iconic venue of Cameron Indoor Stadium. Battle-tested, they moved into the regular season, facing five of the best teams in Division II at the time. The Braves claimed victories over Emporia State and USC-Aiken but fell in close games against Florida Southern, Lincoln Memorial and Tusculum.

After their long road trip, they caught fire and went on an 11-game winning streak before having it snapped in a hard-fought battle with Lees-McRae on Jan. 20 at home. That first conference loss did not stop their momentum. They continued to take down conference opponents, including repeats over Francis Marion and Mount Olive. Junior Bradlee Haskell had 17 points in the 89-65 victory over FMU, plus four steals and seven assists. Redshirt junior Elijah Cobb had 18 points in the 91-point tally against Mount Olive, helping the Braves takes the East Division title on Feb. 21. Haskell had 20 points against Chowan on Feb. 29, but it was not enough to keep the game out of overtime, where Chowan snapped the Braves' four-game winning streak and kept the Braves from taking the regular season title. That was hard to believe, with a 15-3 Conference Carolinas record and a 21-6 overall record.

Seeded #1 in the conference tournament, the Braves traveled to South Carolina to fight tooth-and-nail for a win against Barton College so they could get to the final and get revenge on Emmanuel for a loss back in February. Fans were on the edges of their seats as the Braves squeaked it out against the Lions in overtime, 82-81, picking up their first Conference Carolinas tournament crown since joining the league in summer of 2021, and their first since a Peach Belt Conference title in the 2016-17 season.

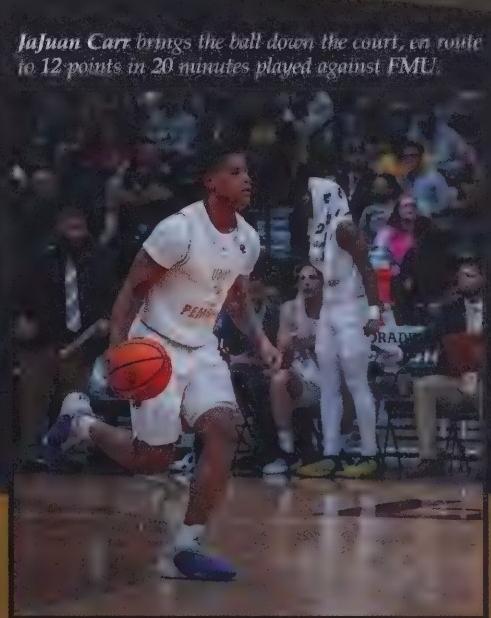
Elijah Cobb had 22 points in the final and was named tournament MVP. The Braves punched their ticket to a NCAA tournament berth, the program's tenth appearance in the DII national postseason.



Josh Berenbaum gets ready to pass the ball in the Braves' victory over Converse.



Javonte Waverly was two-for-two on free throws in the win against Francis Marion on Feb. 17.



Jajuan Carr brings the ball down the court, en route to 12 points in 20 minutes played against FMU.

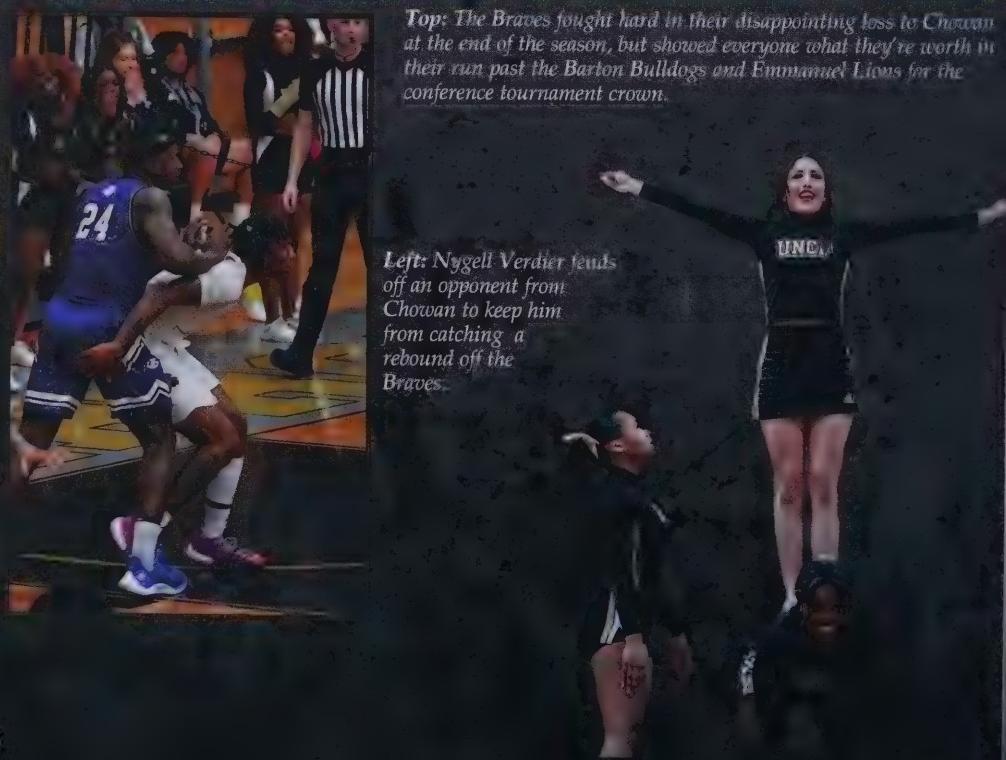
	OPP
47	Houston
64	Duke
78	Emporia State
82	Florida Southern
69	Lincoln Memorial
70	USC Aiken
80	Tusculum
81	Fayetteville State
70	Virginia State
66	Columbus State
84	Southern Wesleyan
80	King
73	Young Harris
68	Tusculum
90	Converse
73	Chowan
67	Belmont Abbey
82	Barton
73	Lees-McRae
91	Francis Marion
71	North Greenville
97	Mount Olive
67	Emmanuel
88	Erskine
77	Barton
89	Francis Marion
91	Mount Olive
73	Converse
75	Chowan
79	Barton
82	Emmanuel



Top: The Braves fought hard in their disappointing loss to Chowan at the end of the season, but showed everyone what they're worth in their run past the Barton Bulldogs and Emmanuel Lions for the conference tournament crown.



Left: Nygell Verdier fends off an opponent from Chowan to keep him from catching a rebound off the Braves.





Above left: Berenbaum grabs the offensive rebound and spins around to take the next shot.

Left: Jalen Carr is about to make his move around this Francis Marion defender.

Below: Braxton Hinkle gets past on Duke's Kyle Filipowski, but the Braves ended up trounced, 109-64, in this exhibition game at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Nov. 1.

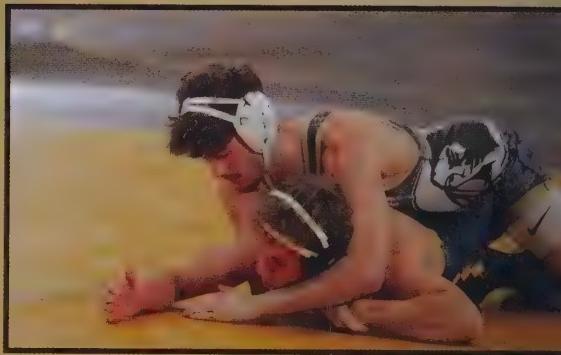


Javonte Waverly has his work cut out for him in the exhibition game against the Blue Devils (Duke's Jaylen Blakes on the left).

Throwing Down

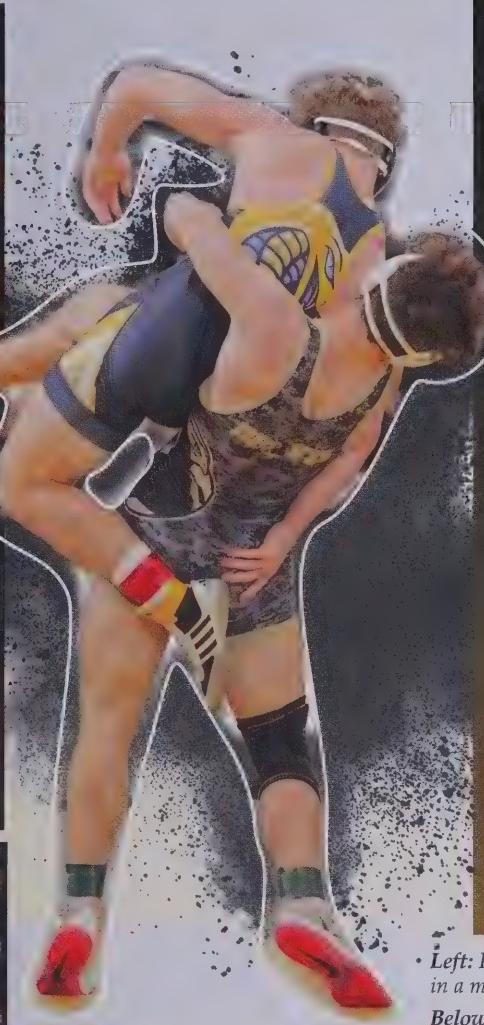
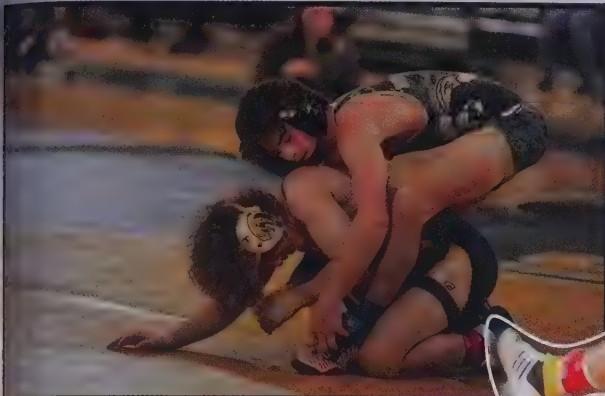
A Big Season

Jose Zambrano wrestles in the
42nd Pembroke Classic.



Top right: Logan Robinson wrestles an opponent from Allen University. *Middle:* Jake Piccirilli takes down a Coker Cobra. *Above:* Joey Bruscino scores some points against Coker's Corey Gallivan.

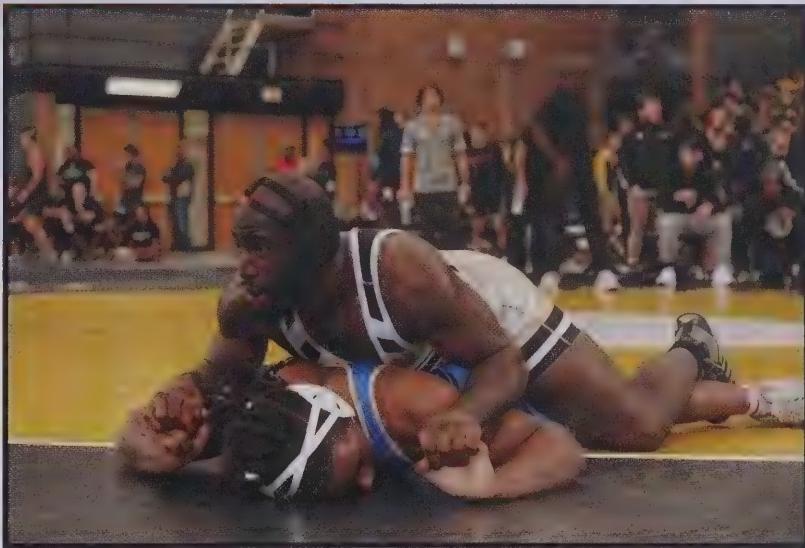
Top to bottom: Joey Bruscino gets some points in his match against Coker; the team attentively supports each other; Logan Robinson earns the Braves 5 points over Allen University.



UNCP	OPP
NTS	42nd Pembroke Classic
58	Emory and Henry
9	Lander
0	King Open
27	Emmanuel
43	Notre Dame
41	Frostburg State
26	Glenville State
43	Kentucky Wesleyan
17	Reinhardt
7	Life University
12th	Midwest Classic
3rd	Citrus Invitational
27	Newberry
13	Grand Valley State
8	Pitt-Johnstown
35	Coker
59	Allen
58	Davis & Elkins
NTS	Newberry Open
36	Limestone
28	Mount Olive
31	Belmont Abbey
25	King
29	Lander
2nd	NCAA Super Region II

Left: Keegan Roberson defeats Coker's Noah Korenoski in a major decision.

Below: Chris Dickey will end up with a pin at 2:39.



The Braves put a lid on their regular season by finishing with a 14-6 overall record (8-1 in Conference Carolinas). The season started off strong on the road with a 58-0 win over Emory & Henry. They faced their first serious challenge on Nov. 16 at home when they fell to #1 Lander, 31-9. They went on to win five straight meets, including a complete sweep at the Lander Duals. They had impressive finishes in some key meets, including a 12th-place finish in the 44th Annual Midwest Classic with 76.5 points, a third-place place finish out of 14 teams in the Citrus Invitational with 128.5 points, and a victory Jan. 2 over the Newberry Wolves.

In the UNCP Tri-Meet on Jan. 13 the Braves swept through the competition with shutout wins over both Allen University and Davis & Elkins and near-domination of Coker. The sixth-ranked Braves' win over Mount Olive on Feb. 4 clinched at least a share of the East Division crown, which they nailed down for themselves on Senior Night with a 31-11 win over Belmont Abbey. Coach Johnson said, "This year it's been really special watching these guys hold each other accountable and be there for each other."

Can't Spell Wrestling...

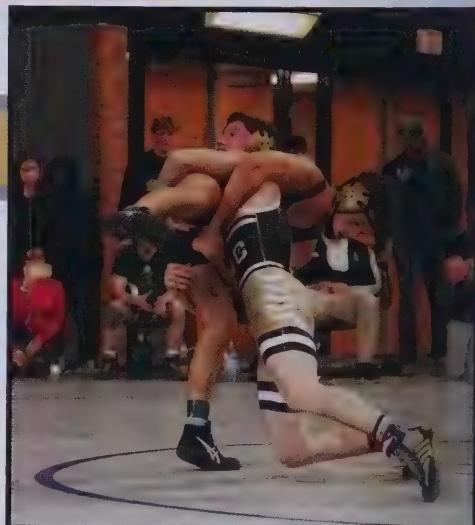


Scott Joll reps the "P" for Pembroke after a hard-fought win.



Christopher Dickey holds up a "W" after winning his match.

In the inaugural Conference Carolinas Championships, the Braves took down King University in a hard-fought duel, 25-18. They advanced to the finals, where they faced the Lander Bearcats, who had given them one of their few team losses of the season. Lander got the best of them again, with a 29-9 win to claim the league's first title. The Braves finished the NCAA Super Region II Championship in second place out of 11 teams and sent six qualifiers to Wichita for the NCAA National Championships in March (as this book goes to press).



Top left: Ryan Walker
Middle: Tkaai Gaither
Bottom (above): Logan Robinson

...Without the 'W'

The Braves finished the season with four wrestlers ranked in the top 25 in their weight classes. Ranked #5 at 125lbs was redshirt junior Logan Seliga; #11 at 149lbs was junior Jake Piccirilli; #8 at 157lbs was redshirt freshman Keegan Roberson. Transfer grad student Scott Joll, who went to high school with Logan Seliga, was ranked #1 at 174lbs.

The Braves also claimed some hardware with conference awards. Scott Joll took home the Upper-Weight Most Outstanding Wrestler and was also named Wrestler of the Year. Freshman of the Year went to Avery Buonocore. Joll was named All-Conference First Team along with Roberson, while Seliga and Piccirilli took home second-team honors in their respective divisions.

Senior Night



Left to right: Brandon Smith, Joshua Feliz, Scott Joll and Logan Seliga line up for their Senior Night photo.

C O k E or P e P S i

Grab a friend and a pen, and answer these questions based on the popular "Coke or Pepsi" book series from when we were kids!

1. **MORNING CLASSES?** ☀️ **AFTERNOON CLASSES?**
2. Who's your celebrity crush? Campus crush? 😍
3. The worst professor you've had? worst class?
4. The best professor you've had? best class?
5. **FOOTBALL GAME** **BASKETBALL GAME** 🏀
6. Best UNCP housing?
 Courtyard Apartments Oak Hall
 Pine Hall Cypress Hall
7. 🎬 stay in and watch movie go out and party
8. Favorite spot on campus?
9. **Pizza Hut**  **Papa Johns**

10. Pembroke (pem-broke) Pembroke (pem-brook)

11. Ever had a semester fling? Yes No

12. **Ryan Reynolds or Ryan Gosling?**

13. Cherie Berry or that new man in the elevators? *north carolinians know!*

14.  Hulu Netflix? 

15. Unpopular Opinion?

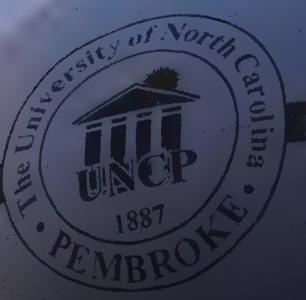
16. **Barbie** **Oppenheimer**

17.  Spotify Apple Music

18. Best Spider-Man?
Toby Maguire **Andrew Garfield** **Tom Holland**

19.   

20. Instagram TikTok



The campus water tower starts to glow as sunset begins at the north end of campus.

Photo credit: Mykayla Brady

GRADUATING

This school year has indeed been one with many changes. We hope that you have grown this year and continue to do so for the remainder of your time at Pembroke, recognizing that anywhere you want to go in life, "you can get there from here." May the memories you make, the laughter you shared, and the positive lessons you learned be ones that you carry with you throughout your life. Just like a tree blooms in the spring, thrives in the summer, withers in the fall and then rests, dormant, in the winter, so will your life experience cycles and stages. The university cycles through seasons of change, and, like any year, we've gained new students in our community and released graduates out into the "real world." The yearbook staff acknowledges that school got pretty real this year. We continue to be optimistic about this whole college thing and about campus life. As editor-in-chief, I'd like to express my special thanks to all of the yearbook staff who worked hard in design and photography in the fall or spring semester, and especially those who stuck it out for both terms, to capture key moments and typical experiences you'll look back on as the history of your time here.

They pulled some "all-dayers" to get the book finished, and the team took direction well, following my lead as we experimented with the new organization and theme.

I appreciated their enthusiasm for my new ideas.

Personally, I know I'm grateful for getting the opportunity to plan this volume of the Indianhead for BraveNation and to take photos all over campus that will preserve our collective memory.

I'm looking forward to May graduation!

--Mykayla Brady



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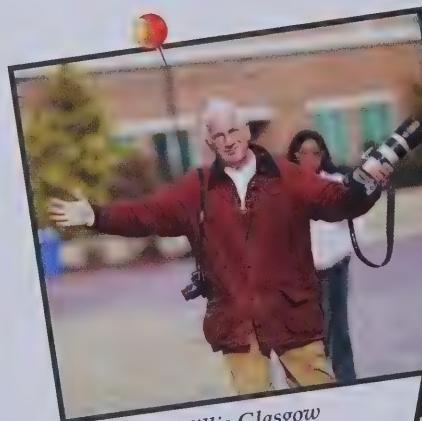
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Join our staff! Look for us at the part-time job and volunteer fair or on Handshake. We have a limited number of paid positions while funding lasts, but volunteers are welcome to enroll in JRN 1820, 1830 or 1840 Yearbook Production for one credit pass/fail. We always need photographers, writers, fact-checkers, editors, promoters and an advertising sales team. Follow uncpyearbook on Instagram!

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A

- A.D. Gallery - 84
Abney, Colin - 99
Abudaya, Nura - 130
Abudayeh, Asil - 130
Abudayya, Ayed - 47, 57
Abumohsen, Dina - 19
Academic Clubs - 88, 89, 90, 91
Accessibility Resource Center - 12
Accounting Student Association - 134
Acto Latino - 19, 89
Adams, Kelci - 150, 151
Adams, Leena - 123
Adcox, Jordan - 34
Addis, Brooke - 8
Ads - 43, 57, 167
Agriculture Club - 61, 62, 88
Aiken, Irene - 40, 55, 118
Alexander, Diaz - 96, 99
Alford, Khalil - 3, 121, 129
All Greek Council - 67, 93
Allen, Jayce - 38
Allred, Samantha - 34, 36
Alpha Kappa Alpha - 66, 93
Alpha Phi Alpha - 66
Alpha Pi Omega - 12, 57, 81, 127
Alpha Sigma Phi - 3, 121
Alston, Elias - 99
Altman, Tim - 124
Alumni Association - 117
American Indian Heritage Day - 96, 97
Amezquita, Carlos - 30
Amidou, Eugenie - 102
Anderson, Justin - 99
Anderson, Kathryn - 26, 27
Andersson, Aspen - 117, 125, 127, 129
Andersson, Lars - 94, 127
Andreyvna, Anna - 140
Antonova, Marya - 140
Arriaga, Ashley - 65, 114
Art Club - 69, 88



- Artman, Alycia - 5, 25, 26, 27, 166
Aurochs - 5
Avellaneda-Gonzalez, Brenda - 125

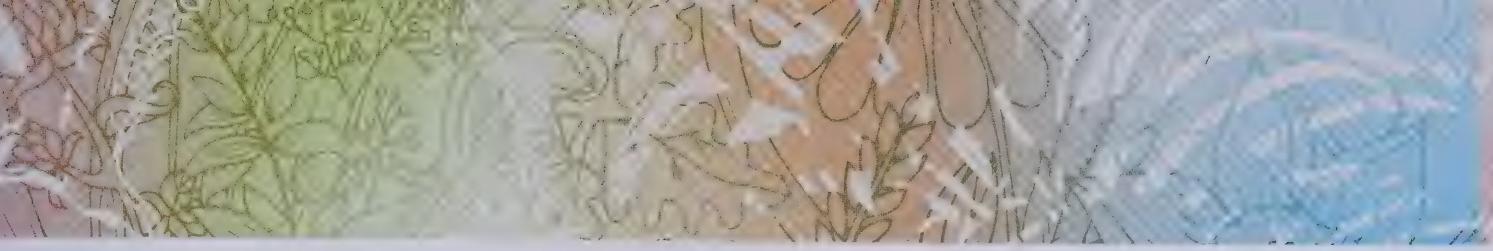
B

- Bacchus, Nyree - 26
Badu, Erykah - 3
Bailey, Alexander - 4
Baines, Sincere - 96, 97, 99
Baker, Haleigh Jo - 39
Baldwin, Caleb - 25
Barber, Alijah - 99
Barber, Boston - 99
Barham, Jonathan - 30, 31, 32
Barrow, Luke - 30
Bartley, Coleman - 67
Basquez, Ismael - 38
Bass, Anna - 102
Bathke, Madison - 19
Beams, Delphinia - 107
Beasley, Cherry - 55
Becerril, Jimena Diaz - 71
Bell, Jykyia - 150
Bell, Mercy - 94, 102, 103, 105
Bell, Talisha - 66
Bennewitz, Malea - 101
Bere, Amelia - 70
Berenbaum, Josh - 154, 155, 157
Bergenholtz, Quentin - 132

- Berntsen, Michael - 4
Berry, Cameron - 99, 112
Berry, Cherie - 163
Best, Jamar - 24
Beta Sigma Gamma - 90
Betha, Delondra - 75
Bigford, Ilaya - 102, 103
Black and Gold Block Party - 70
Blackmon, Abigail - 123
Blackmon, Brooke - 47, 57
Blackwelder, Gabe - 24, 100
Blackwell, Toni - 29
Blakes, Jaylen - 157
Blank, Jamae - 97, 99
Bohannon, Donald - 153
Bonnet, Dave - 99
Borgen, Hanne Sofie - 29
Bowen, Samuel - 14
Bowen, Seth - 99
Bradley, Jake - 30, 31, 32
Bradley, Sebastian - 24, 25
Brady, Mykayla - 3, 4, 5, 53, 127, 138, 164, 165, 166
Branch, Alyssa - 115
Branch, BreAnna - 54
Branch, Lindsay - 19, 91
Branch-Jacobs, Andrea - 54, 153
BraveNation Bash - 68, 69
BraveNation Powwow and Gathering - 12
Braves Card - 7, 63



Brother2Brother at the BraveNation Bash



Braves Central - 63
Braves Share Program - 86
Brisson, Conner - 34, 36, 37
Brooks, Paul - 99
Brothers Size, The - 74
Brown, Deshonn - 24, 27
Brown, Moses - 30, 32
Brown, Ryan - 30
Brown, Trenton - 67, 99
Brunner, Abby - 80
Bruno, Will - 30
Brunson, Brion - 99
Bruscino, Joey - 158, 159
Bryant, Jervis - 99
Bryant, Mya - 16, 140
Bucket List - 6, 7
Bullard, Summer - 34, 35
Bullard, Tanner - 34
Bunker, David - 24
Buonocore, Avery - 161
Burke, Simeal - 99
Burkhart, Delsin - 25, 100
Burley, Rhett - 30
Butler, Jacob - 125
Byrant, Mya - 75

C

Cain, Jeremy - 99
Cain, Madison - 16, 140, 141
Callahan, Tayvon - 24, 25
Calloway, Cirstin - 34, 35
Campbell, Kaitlin - 61
Campus Engagement and Leadership - 67, 91
Campus Garden - 7, 44, 60, 61
Camus, Albert - 121
Cancio, Maria - 102
Candlelight Memorial - 128, 129
Caporaletti, Dallas - 99
Capps, Morgan - 67
Carballido, Jasmin - 47, 57
CARE Resource Center - 61
Carpenter, Catrina - 40
Carr, JaJuan - 154, 155, 157
Carr, James - 40
Carr, Reagan - 102, 104



Onyx Thorp and Jacob Merrill are in the Chess Club.

Carriker, Madison - 34
Carter, Anaya - 107
Case, Walker - 30, 32
Chadwell, Zack - 30
Chalmers, Jakel - 24
Chambers, Britney - 16, 26, 27, 140, 141
Chance, Amari - 99
Chavez Soriano, Brenda - 125
Chavis, Austin - 99
Chavis, Kenzie - 74
Chavis, Michelle - 4
Chemistry and Physics Club - 89
Chepkesir, Joshua - 25
Chism, Matthew - 30, 32
Chow, Christina - 54
Christy, Dick - 152
Christy, Windy - 54
Ciboth, Zackari - 5, 166
Clancey, Will - 100
Clark, Khalil - 135
Clark, Zaria - 150
Clausen, Lilly - 88, 139
Cobb, Elijah - 154, 155
Coghlan, Kyleigh - 107
Coleman, Jada - 150
Collegiate Hunger Challenge - 11
Collins, Mackenzie - 34, 37
Commons - 3, 129



Community and Civic Engagement - 61
Concert Band - 77, 124
Confessions - 72, 73
Connor, JG - 69
Cook, Nicole - 5, 102, 103, 104, 166
Cooke, Emma - 53
Cooper, Quentin - 99
Coppin, Chiara - 102, 103
Coto, Christian - 16, 140
Council, Chace - 123
Countryman, Ruby - 107, 108
Courmon, Lamar - 80
Courtyard Apartments - 3, 48, 121, 129, 162
Cowick, Austin - 99
Cox, Ashlynn - 47, 57
Crescent Circus - 14
Crews, Noriya - 139
Crim Jr., Antonio - 99
Criminal Justice Club - 90
Crosland, Marquis - 75, 140
Cross Country - 100, 101
Crossgrove, Katie - 65
Crouch, Carsyn - 99
Cummings, Caroline - 111
Cummings, Paula - 55, 116
Cummings, Rebecca - 55
Cummings, Robin Gary - 40, 42, 117, 118, 121



Cunningham, Bill - 133
Cypress Residence Hall - 162

D

Daggett, Nick - 7
Daley, Precious - 107
Daminabo, Sharon - 70
Daniels, Taliyah - 38, 39
Darden, Courtney - 80, 111
Darity, Micaiah - 26, 27, 84
Davis, Christopher Jr. - 99, 113
Davis, Desmond - 129
Davis, Jacqueline - 129
Davis, Jamiel - 99
Deam, Sean - 16, 58
DeBusk, Samantha - 29
Deese, Ethan - 123
Deese, Madison - 29
Denson, T.J. - 99
DeShaun, Trinity - 53
Dial, Anthony - 123
Dial, Trista - 13
Dickey, Christopher - 159, 160
Dine, Julia Van - 26, 27
Divine Dancers - 14
Dixon, CaSaan - 99
Dixon, Elise - 42
Dixon, Melinda - 67
Dixon, Trey - 96, 97, 99
Dobbin, Zachary - 24
Doe, Jovany - 99
Douglas, Cedric - 25
Dover, Chaneta - 135
Drahos, Jonathan - 39, 58, 74, 117, 141
Duff, William - 14
Dunn, Sam - 99
Dupree, Travis - 99
Durco, Karagyn - 107
Dyson, Madison - 34, 36

E

Eddy, Ray - 123
Edens, Paul - 99
Edwards, Darian - 66
Edwards, Kyree - 99



Edwards, Melissa - 49
Edwards, Ty - 113
Eid al-Fitr - 130
Ellerbe, Joshua - 24
Elliott, Jacob - 123
Emanuel, Makaylee - 111
Etten, Martina Van - 47
Evald, Vilma - 29
Evans, Mahala - 27
Evans, Raigan - 26
Evington, Natalie - 150

F

Faith Clubs - 130, 131
Fall Sports - 2, 95
Family Day - 21
Family Weekend - 70
Fant, Donovan - 138
Farmer, Vin - 99
Fashion Show Block Party - 70, 71
Fashion Week - 138, 139
Fashion Without Season - 138
Faulkner, Spencer - 30, 32
Faye, Amadou - 154
Fazzino, Frank - 24, 27
Feliz, Joshua - 9, 161
Fennell, Myles - 99
Feria, Julisa Herandez - 91
Fernandez, Teresa - 65

Festival at Old Main - 20, 21
Flantos, Lillian - 150
Flowers, Paul - 125
Forbes, Ashley - 102
Ford, Laden - 99
Foreman, Justin - 99
Fowler, Braylon - 99
Fox, Riley - 34
Fraidenburg, Emma - 107, 108
Francis, LaKeya - 67
Frazier, James - 75, 140
Freeman, Jamee - 12
Freeman, Macy - 115, 123
Freeman, Nigel - 53
Freeman, Raydarius - 99
Freshman Move-In Day - 53, 64
Friend, William - 4, 124
Frierson, Brian - 99
Frost, Jodi - 67
Frye, Jack - 24

G

Gaither, Tkaii - 64, 69, 160
Gallivan, Corey - 158
Gamache, Edward - 89
Gamma Sigma Sigma - 67
Gardner, Dallas - 154
Garrison, Malea - 150
Garry, Keirahlee - 89
Gatling, E.J. - 99



Disc Golf Club is run by Ephraim Boyte and Nicholas Hansen





Geer, Matthew - 24, 25, 39
Gerber, Lauren - 111
Gerfin, Kimberly - 32
Ghaffar, Abdul - 91, 93
Gibson, Karen - 54
Gillenwater, Gretchen - 80
Givens Performing Arts Center - 11, 14, 17, 51, 58, 59, 67, 114, 118, 124
Glasgow, Willis - 86, 166
Global Engagement - 70
Godwin, India - 139
Gogol, Nikolai - 141
Government Inspector, The - 134
Governors Award - 41, 118
Grace P. Johnson Stadium - 111
Grad Finale - 4
Graduate School - 40, 55, 118
Graham, Jesse - 16
Grainger, Tyler - 16
Grant, Kacia - 81
Grass Dance Society - 13
Graves, Cadyn - 99
Gray, Will - 154
Graziani, Stephanie - 22, 34, 37, 54
Gregg, Jordan - 99
Griffin, Elijah - 139
Griffin, TJ - 99
Gritti, Michela - 101
Grossheim, Anna - 102, 103
Guion, Will - 99
Guy, Kaleigh - 65
Guzman, Stephany - 125

H

Hagevik, Rita - 61
Hairston, Essence - 134
Haladay, Jane - 40, 41, 118
Hall, Dustin - 99
Hall, Gabe - 81
Hall, Kalaya - 54, 150, 151, 153
Hall, Mark - 94, 96, 97, 99
Hall, Olivia - 34, 36

Ham, Shawn - 11
Hamman, Waleed Kali - 65
Hamrin, Amanda - 29
Hanning, Raven - 5, 25
Hansberry, Donavin - 99
Harper, Jaleesa - 54, 94, 106, 107
Harris, Ashleigh - 102, 103, 105
Harris, Bryan - 99
Harris, LaNiya - 101
Harris, Trent - 30
Harris, Will - 30, 32
Harrison, Faith - 58
Hart, Devyn - 102
Harvey, DaMarr - 24, 25
Haskell, Bradlee - 154, 155, 157
Haskins, John - 54, 151, 152
Haskins, Kelly - 54
Haston, Raven - 26
Hawley, Lauren - 34
Hayes, Jo - 5, 166
Heath Careers Club - 91
Hernandez, Angelica - 71
Hernandez, Samuel - 49
Hester, Ashley - 107
Hester, Caleb - 99
Hibbard, David - 54
Hicks, Reece - 27, 47, 57
Hilbourn, Lauren - 34, 35, 36, 37
Hill, Kyle - 99
Hill, Lauryn - 3
Hill, Morgan - 102, 103
Hill, Sean - 99
Hills, Jackson - 99
Hinson, Blake - 30
Hispanic Heritage Fall Festival - 89
History Club - 134
Hobson, Zach - 99
Hoffer, Dalton - 6
Hoffman, Logan - 4
Hofmeister, Gabby - 34
Hoggard, AJ - 99
Hok Nosai - 81
Holder, Cameron - 16, 58, 74, 75, 140, 141

Holder, Joseph - 16, 75, 140, 141
Holiday Extravaganza - 114
Holland, Stephanie - 67
Homecoming - 80, 81, 82, 83, 96, 97, 111, 117
Hood, Maya - 150
Hood, Will - 30
Horne, Madison - 110
How We Get Around - 86, 87
Howard, Ebonie - 84
Howard, Eros - 124
Hudspeth, Aly - 26, 27
Humbert, Madison - 115
Hunsinger, Chloe - 34, 36, 37
Hunt, Alexia - 4
Hunt, Micky - 110
Hyson, Gabby - 148

I

Iluyomade, Daniel - 71
Indigenous Peoples Day - 63
Inman, Jake - 30
Internships - 46, 47, 57
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship - 130, 131
Involvement Fair - 130, 131

J

Jackson, Bradley - 107
Jackson, Davion - 99
Jackson, Julius - 99
Jackson, Leisha - 27
Jacobs, Alaqua - 88, 139
Jacobs, Jonathon - 30
Jacobs, Rakyah - 46
Jamerson, Allen - 39
James A. Thomas Hall - 126
James, Henry - 45
James, Rhett - 30, 32
Jarrett, Kyla - 111
Jayne, Christian - 30
Jean, Jesicove - 125
Jefferson, Jeff - 30
Jefferson, Keshawn - 99





Jeffreys, Clavaria - 124
 Jeffries, Edward - 19
 Jenkins, Brennan - 19
 Jernigan, Chase - 30, 31
 Jewsome, Latrell - 99
 Johnson, Colin - 96, 97, 99
 Johnson, James - 30
 Johnson, Kadarius - 140
 Johnson, Landon - 99
 Johnson, Norean - 71
 Johnson, Othello - 159
 Johnson, Ranya - 81, 91
 Johnson, Tyler - 54
 Joll, Scott - 160, 161
 Jones Center - 12, 81, 117
 Jones, Alissa - 5, 47, 166
 Jones, Allison - 102
 Jones, Jaequan - 24
 Jones, Jamarvious - 154
 Jones-Elliott, Armani - 49, 81
 Jordan, Tatum - 5, 166
 Junker, Norman - 24, 100
 Just Love Coffee - 3

K

Kabir, Sayeed - 47, 57
 Kappa Alpha Psi - 64, 69
 Kappa Delta - 39, 69
 Karuwe, Kimberly - 70
 Kelly, JaQuan - 96, 99
 Kenney, Dan - 152
 Kepner, Nathan - 14, 15
 Kessinger, Joshua - 9
 Kimaiyo, Moureen - 94, 101
 King, Tyreke - 99, 112
 Kingdom, Ashanti - 71
 Kipsang, Elisha - 24, 100
 Kocen, Michael - 30
 Kolsin, Nick - 4, 113
 Korenoski, Noah - 159
 Kosgei, Jackline - 26, 27, 101, 131
 Kuhnemann, Wyatt - 24
 Kumar, Yogesh - 71
 Kunz, Branden - 30



Jocelyn Clemente-Mejia and Cheryse Edwards of K-Revolution.

L

Ladies Garden Party - 54, 55
 Lambda Theta Phi - 67
 Lambillotte, Molly - 106, 107
 Lancaster, Syniah - 34
 Larraga Ruiz, Kayla - 140
 Lassiter, Steven - 154
 Lawson, Michael - 99
 LEAD Fellows - 91
 Ledford, Spencer - 30
 Lee, Chessa - 29
 Legally Blonde - 17
 Lestander, Estela - 102
 Leviner, Hannah - 89
 Levy, Hunter - 24, 100
 Lewis, Kendrick - 24
 Lewis, Payden - 100
 Lewis, Zylique - 99
 Ley, Saige - 99
 Little, Alexis - 47, 57
 Litty, Jamie - 5, 10, 44, 166
 Litty, Michael - 60, 141, 166
 Lobban, Aniah - 8
 Locklear Hall - 84
 Locklear, April W. - 12
 Locklear, Brittany - 15
 Locklear, Caleb - 19, 99
 Locklear, James Phillip - 40
 Locklear, Jay - 42
 Locklear, Jordan - 47, 57
 Locklear, Kyra - 47, 57
 Locklear, Mary Beth Brayboy - 55
 Locklear, Natalya - 91
 Locklear, Rocky - 6

Lodge, Freya - 102
 Long, Evan - 6
 Lopez, Salvador - 71, 125
 Lorenzo, Jazmine - 27
 Lowery, Phyllis - 85
 Lowry, Abigail - 47, 57, 102, 103
 Lowry, Rebekah R. - 54, 115
 Lubamba, Gloriest - 138
 Lucas, Aaron - 66
 Luce, Clayton - 4
 Luckett, Hannah - 22, 29, 54
 Lumbee Homecoming - 3, 6, 56, 57
 Ly, Bocar - 99
 Lynch, Aiyana - 13
 Lynch, Lucas - 69
 Lyng, Alyssa - 64

M

Ma, Yena - 114
 Mabe, Walker - 24
 Madison, Jamonte - 58
 Maggio, Catarina - 91
 Mahana, Eddie - 24, 27
 Malerba, Lynn - 39, 40
 Mann, Amber - 5, 166
 Mann, Peyton - 154
 Manueles, Katie - 53
 Marano, Carolanne - 141
 March Madness - 11, 36
 Marching Band - 81
 Marcus; The Secret of Sweet - 74, 75
 Marie, Chelsea - 140
 Marineau, Josiah - 125
 Marino, Lillian - 26, 27
 Marion-Holmes, Cortez - 154
 Marks, Nathan - 100
 Martin, Cara - 81
 Martinez, Minerva - 88
 Martinez, Samantha - 85
 Mass Communication - 5
 Mateura, Zvipo - 71
 Mauldin, Catarina - 19
 Mays, Victor - 5
 McAllister, Hadiyah - 67
 McCallum, Tyreik - 154





McCarrel, Jennifer - 55
McCawley, Kasen - 30, 32, 33
McCraney, Tarell Alvin - 74
McCullor, Jhi - 99
McDougald, Camille - 4, 134, 139, 166
McGee, Corey - 24
McGee, Jerry - 117
McGill, Mac - 140
McIntyre, De'Ja - 74, 75
McKeithan, Seonte - 74, 75
McKenzie, Jermaine - 24
McKinzie, Malik - 99
McLean, Evan - 30
McLean, Zy - 154
McManus, Aniah - 66, 150
McNeill, Mackenzie - 69
McPhaul, Marah - 139
McVickers, Kristen - 115
McWilliams, Jeremyah - 154
Mejias, Daniel - 100
Melchiorre, Nick - 99
Melendez, Diamond - 5, 166
Mencia Martinez, Mariel - 147, 149
Mercado-Vazquez, Janiel - 48
Mercer, Evan - 124
Merritt, Ratavia - 27
Messi, Lionel - 45
Midgett, Alexia - 124
Miller, Amare - 154
Miller, Josh - 99
Miller, Ryan - 135
Miller, Skyla - 67
Milutinovic, Nick - 134, 140
Mitchell, Ayana - 53
Model United Nations - 11, 123, 127
Moise, Jaqueeta - 27, 101
Mondal, Shirsendu - 5, 120, 132, 166
Moore Hall - 123, 131
Moore, Toure - 5
Morman, Mike - 123
Morris, Tamia - 150
Morrison, Darren - 99
Morrow, Travon - 24, 25

Moselle, Jackson - 88
Murphy, Miya - 67
Musical Season - 17
Musicals - 16, 17
Muslim Student Association - 130, 131
Musselwhite, Michael - 30
Mustafa, Raghad - 116

N

Natale, Darlene - 4
Native American Student Organization - 13
Neely, Colin - 99
Nervo, Lucas - 24, 100
Nesbit, Jaiden - 99
New Student Orientation - 2, 52, 53
Nicholson, Jayana - 102
Nixon, Isaac - 5, 166
Noble, Shernetta - 40
North Residence Hall - 113
Nuamah, Aisha - 71

O

O'Connor, Kody - 30
O'Neil, Paul - 30, 31
Oak Residence Hall - 162
Obi, Jessica - 131
Old Main - 6, 21, 115, 121, 129



Latin Student Union at the UNCP Resources Fair during Admissions Open House

Olivas, Christian - 99
Oliver, Alex - 99
Omega Psi Phi - 67
Orientation Leaders - 53
Ormsby, Peter - 24, 27
Ormsby, Sara - 26, 27, 125
Ortiz, Gilberto - 99
Ortiz-Rojas, Magally - 81, 123
Osei, Leo - 71
Osewe, Brace - 24
Ott, Ethan - 30, 31
Owens, Jordan - 39
Oxendine Science Building - 62, 125
Oxendine, Ben - 24, 25
Oxendine, Bennie - 24
Oxendine, Billy - 58
Oxendine, Kendall - 117
Oxendine, Kendrick - 19
Oxendine, Wynona - 140
Oxouzidis, Ahelayus - 12, 67

P

Padilla, Brittany - 54
Page, Blake - 99
Page, Georgia - 28, 29, 54
Pait, Billy - 19
Pallissery, Shruti - 71
PAMPLIN, Aaliyah - 4, 131
Parker, Miles - 99
Pass, Jamal - 81



Patterson, Ashtyn - 34
Patterson, Tyler - 107
Paul, Bethani - 85
Paul, Cindy - 39
Peck, Whitney - 81
Peduzzi, Abby - 107, 108
Pelagio-Luis, Kimberly - 47, 57
Pembroke Activities Council - 14, 93
Pembroke Day - 76, 78, 91
Pembroke Singers - 77
Pepe Pugliese, Benedetta - 147
Pere, San - 75
Pereira, Sofia - 147
Perry, Jacob - 99
Perry, Shelby - 47, 81, 93
Peters, Josh - 4
Petty, Jaylian - 99
Phi Sigma Nu - 12, 67, 81
Phieffer, Jack - 100
Phillips, Evan - 5, 6, 65, 166
Phillips, Lee - 19
Phillips, Owen - 65
Phyall, Chance - 24
Piccirilli, Jake - 158, 161
Pickett, Keshawn - 99
Pierce, Caleb - 99
Pierce, Zach - 64
Pine Needle - 4, 5
Pine Residence Hall - 64, 162
Piro, Karen - 26, 27, 101
Pitt, Tony - 99
Pittman Jr., Keith - 99
Poage, Bob - 19
Porter, AlexAndriA - 41
Poteet, Christie - 6
Pough, Jalayna - 4, 93
Powell, Evan - 47, 57, 99
Powell, Jasmine - 41
Powers, David - 40
Powwow - 6, 12, 13
Pratt, Erik - 99
Pratt, Sterling - 16, 140
Pre-Law Society - 92
Pressley, Katie - 106, 107, 109
Przulj, Vanja - 106, 107, 109
PURC - 18, 19
Purnell, Alcenia - 84, 150

Q

Quin, Maelisa - 16
Quintana, Erica - 67

R

Raleigh, Katie - 146
Rawls, Amazriah - 150
Reagan, Danielle - 40
Reaves, Kinstin - 99
Redemption Choir - 129, 130, 131
Residence Hall Association - 81
Rezek, Joey - 30
Riddle, Abby - 34, 37
Riley, Jayden - 99
Ritchie, Elizabeth - 29, 39
Roberson, Kaci - 34, 36, 37
Roberson, Keegan - 159, 16
Rerts, Trey - 24
Robertson, Conrad - 100
Robeson Rockers - 77
Robinson, Logan - 158, 159, 160
Robinson, Macaiah - 110
Rocket Team - 90
Rodgers, Benjamin - 5, 91, 134, 166
Rodgers, Jeremiah - 99
Rodriguez Matos, Ketlyn - 147, 149
Rogers, Seth - 138
Rorie, Marvis - 124
Rose, Emily - 34
Roverato, Oscar - 54, 147
Roverato, Shatheta - 54
Rowdy, Amrah - 66
Rumbeau, Nic - 16
Russell, Chris - 97, 99
Russell, Hannah - 150

S

Sacoto, Amanda - 150
Saenz, Rizihery - 92
Sales, Bryan - 44, 61
Samoei, Valary - 26, 27

Sanders, Brianna - 27
Sanders, Faith - 4
Sanders, Jiawan - 99
Sarmiento, Natalia - 149
Schall, Rylan - 4
Schwengle, Britta - 146, 147, 148
Schwenneker, Madison - 81
Schwenneker, Mason - 80
Science Education Club - 61
Scrattish, Hannah - 5, 115, 123, 166
Seger, Javion - 24, 25
Seliga, Logan - 7, 161
Sellars, Ethan - 99
Sellers, Olivia - 111
Senior Art Exhibits - 84, 85
Sigma Gamma Rho - 66, 69
Sigma Tau Delta - 90
Silva, Nathalia - 149
Simpkins, Gabriel - 99
Sims, Tatiana - 14
Sinclair, Anastasia - 150
Singletary, Steve - 90
Sisk, Adyson - 47, 57, 139
Smalls, Bryson - 135
Smaw, Tiffany - 91
Smith, Brandon - 161
Smith, Caitlin - 47, 57
Smith, Courtney - 150, 151
Smith, Daevohn - 24
Smith, Hannah - 67
Smith, Hayden - 154
Smith, Jayden - 99
Smith, Jeremiah - 99
Smith, Nate - 99
Smith, Randy - 81
Smith, Sam - 14
Somerville, Harmony - 65, 123
Spencer, Brandon - 99
Spencer, Mariah - 101, 131
Spinosa, Austin - 123
Spirit Fest - 81
Spirit Shop - 3
Spirit Squad - 7, 39, 80, 81, 93, 110, 111, 141
Spratling, Reggie - 67
Spring Break - 11



Spring Sports Divider, 22, 23
Stephens, Jamal - 24
Stevens, Deja - 88
Street Fashion - 133
Strickland, Tyler - 30
Student Center - 49, 50, 81, 130, 131
Student Government Association - 69, 126, 127, 14
Student Inclusion and Diversity - 93
Student Publications - 4, 5
Sue Walsh Swimming Pool - 147, 148
Summer Bridge Program - 45, 48
Summer Divider - 44, 45
Sutton, Glenn - 67
Swain, Katelynn - 107, 109
Swain, Lorelai - 65
Swift, Taylor - 11, 51, 121

T

Talbert, Jacob - 125
Talent Show - 14, 15
Tau Kappa Epsilon - 63, 67
Taylor, Cameron - 3, 121, 129
Taylor, Cora - 102
Taylor, James - 5, 62, 166
Teh, ShaDawnya - 27
The Commons - 3, 121, 129
Thibodeaux, Travis - 24
Thomas College of Business and Economics - 119
Thomas, Isaiah - 30, 32
Thomas, Jaela - 26, 27
Thomas, Michael - 124
Thompson, Brandon - 141
Thompson, Kenzie - 135
Thompson, Vonn - 4
Thorne, Diamondu - 66, 69
Thorpe, Ladeja - 66
Thrift, Andrew - 5, 75, 166
Tilson, Shandi - 140
Tipton, Tamra - 148
Tobe, B.J. - 99
Tobias, Malik - 96, 99
Todd, Sean - 100
Tolbert, Devin - 99

Tomlin, Gage - 30
Tonsel-White, Philip - 99
Track - 22, 24, 25, 26, 27
Treish, Mahala - 16
Trull, Kristen - 4
Tsegaye, Ephrata - 71
Tsu-Raun, Morgan - 14
Turbyfill, Hope - 106, 107, 108
Turner, Hunter - 99

U

Ulloa, Josie - 125
Underwood, David - 141
Unger, Carlee - 4
University Communications and Marketing - 55, 166
University Theatre - 17, 74, 140
Uzzell, McKinley - 99

V

Vanderroest, Corey - 166
Vang, Lisa - 71
VanMeter, Evan - 99
Vazquez, Bea - 102
Vazquez, Kevin - 24, 100
Vela, Richard - 124
Verdier, Nygell - 154, 156
Veterans Day - 63
Viera, Bryan - 24, 100

W

W.O.M.A.N - 81
Wakefield, Katie - 107
Walker, Avery - 131
Walker, Justin - 24
Walker, Ryan - 160
Wall, Emerson - 99
Walters-Wright, Kalena - 102
Ward, Aaliyah - 80, 110
Ward, Cheyenne - 16, 58, 140, 141
Warth, David - 30
Watson, Makayla - 14
Waverly, Javonte - 154, 155, 157
Webb, Jolerion - 99
West, Elizabeth - 123

West, Katelyn - 107, 108
Wheeler, John - 99
Whitaker, Andrew - 24
White, Abby - 34
White, Grace - 14
Whitehurst, Ben - 30
Whiteside, Christian - 100
Whitley, Caroline - 123
Wickham, Daleesa - 135
Wilkes, Marijo - 34, 36
Wilkes, Raekwon - 16, 74, 75
Wilkins, Colt - 30
Williams, Chelsea - 16
Williams, Kaceion - 99
Williams, Mark - 24
Williams, Prince - 99
Wilson, Miguel - 24
Wilson, Valdez - 53
Windley, Ashleigh - 54
Winter Divider - 120, 121
Winter Sports Divider - 144, 145
Witt, Bryce - 99
Women's Empowerment Summit - 55
Woodell, Krystin - 12
Woods, Ty - 97, 99
Woolley, Christopher - 125
Worriax, Jayden - 12
Wyche, Sharonda - 138, 166
Wynne, Kia - 4, 5, 74, 75, 113, 139, 166

Y

Yanick, Mercedes - 89
Young, David - 16

Z

Zambrano, Jose - 158
Zeiders, Warren - 32
Zeta Phi Beta - 81
Zeta Tau Alpha - 67





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